what blue wave? | spirit mother rocks! | the most overlooked films of 2018 | psycho holiday plays
november 30–december 6, 2018 | volume 24 | number 14
essential ocweekly.com

OC WEEKLY

FREE®

PRESERVING THE CRAFT

TEN YEARS AFTER TRAGEDY, THE DRAGON AND THE ROSE EMERGES AS THE HUB FOR OC PAGANS

Cannabis

MedMen

California

Abbot Kinney
Beverly Hills
DTLA
LAX
West Hollywood
San Diego
Orange County

Nevada

Downtown Las Vegas
North Las Vegas
Paradise (Coming Soon)

New York

Buffalo
New York City
Lake Success
Syracuse

RAZAVI
Law Group

BEST OF
READERS CHOICE
WINNER
OCWEEKLY
2018

PREMIER PERSONAL INJURY AND EMPLOYMENT LITIGATION LAW FIRM

(949) 734-0476 | 2090 N. TUSTIN, SUITE 250A, SANTA ANA CA 92705

PUT YOUR MESSAGE INTO YOUR CUSTOMERS' HANDS...
...DISCOVER THE AMAZING POWER OF DIGITAL ADVERTISING.
Programmatic
Social Media
Retargeting
Email Marketing
TO LEARN MORE WHAT DIGITAL ADVERTISING CAN DO FOR YOUR BUSINESS
CALL 714-550-5900 OR EMAIL OCWEEKLY@OCWEEKLY.COM
OCWEEKLY

inside » 11/30-12/06 » 2018

VOLUME 24 | NUMBER 14 » OCWEEKLY.COM

OCWEEKLY.COM/SLIDESHOWS
CAMP FLOG GNAW 2018 AT DODGER STADIUM

CHRISTOPHER VICTORIO

up front

The County

08 | NEWS | Please stop saying Orange County is "turning blue." By Anthony Pignataro
06 | POLITICAL FOOTBALL | Buffalo Bills vs. Miami Dolphins By Steve Lowery
07 | A CLOCKWORK ORANGE | Don't mess with Bill Browder By Matt Coker
07 | HEY, YOU! | Love thy neighbor. By Anonymous

Cover Story

08 | FEATURE | Ten years after tragedy, Karen Estremo's the Dragon and the Rose emerges as the hub for OC pagans. By Gabrial San Román.

in back

Calendar

13 | EVENTS | Things to do while getting wicked

Food

16 | REVIEW | Mr. Taco Nica does taco and pizza and taco pizzas. By Edwin Goei
16 | WHAT THE ALE | Breweries come together to send aid to fire victims. By Greg Nagel.
17 | LONG BEACH LUNCH | The Ordinaire goes all-American By Erin DeWitt
18 | EAT THIS NOW | Where to buy tamales this Christmas in Orange County. By Gustavo Arellano and Cynthia Rebollado

Film

19 | ESSAY | Don't miss some of the most overlooked shows and films of 2018. By Aimee Murillo

Culture

20 | THEATER | Rating holiday plays based on their psychotic predilections. By Joel Baers
20 | ARTS OVERLOAD | Compiled by Aimee Murillo

Music

21 | PROFILE | Spirit Mother's psych rock is classically unconventional By Nate Jackson
22 | PROFILE | Life is good for OC's pop-music heartthrob Gunnar Gahl By Nate Jackson
26 | CONCERT GUIDE | Compiled by Nate Jackson

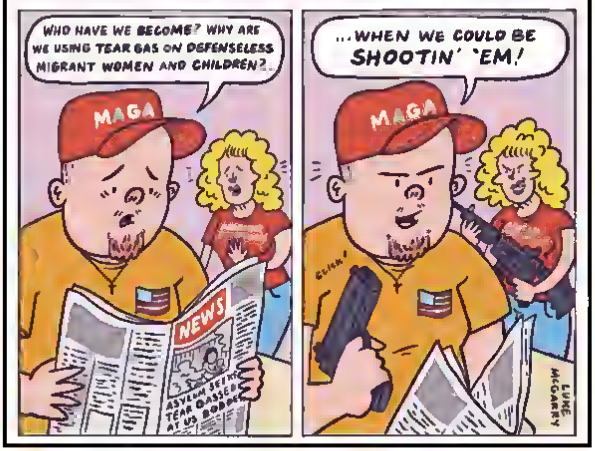
also

26 | SAVAGE LOVE | By Dan Savage
27 | TOKE OF THE WEEK | Rova Farms' single-origin cartridges. By Jefferson VanBilliard
30 | PAINT IT BLACK | The *Shorehne Project* event in Laguna was one hell of a happening. By Lisa Black

on the cover

Photo by John Gilhooley
Design by Richie Beckman

ORANGE FEATHERS »


WHO HAVE WE BECOME? WHY ARE WE USING TEAR GAS ON DEFENSELESS MIGRANT WOMEN AND CHILDREN?
MAGA
NEWS
...WHEN WE COULD BE SHOOTIN' 'EM!
MAGA
BLAM!
LUKE MCGARRY

OC WEEKLY

EDITORIAL
EDITOR Nick Schou
ASSOCIATE EDITOR Patrice Marsters
SENIOR EDITOR, NEWS & INVESTIGATIONS R. Scott Moxley
STAFF WRITERS Matt Coker, Gabriel San Román
MUSIC EDITOR Nate Jackson
FOOD EDITOR Cynthia Rebollede
CALENDAR EDITOR Aimee Murillo
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT/ PROOFREADER Lisa Black
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS Dave Barton, Joel Beers, Sarah Bennett, Lilledeshan Rose Josh Chesler, Heidi Darby Stacy Davies, Alea Distefano, Erin DeWitt, Jeanette Duran, Edwin Goei, Tayler Hamby Candace Hansen, Daniel Kohn, Dave Lieberman, Adam Lovinus, Todd Mathews, Greg Nagel, Katrina Nattress, Nick Nuk en, Anne Marie Panoringan, CJ Simonsen, Andrew Tonkovich, Brittany Woolsey, Chris Ziegler
EDITORIAL INTERNS Liam Slume, Savannah Muñoz, Spencer Otte

EDITORIAL ART
CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS AlGae Leslie Agan, Bob Aul, Jared Boggess, Mark Dancey-Rob Dobi, Jeff Drew, Scott Feinblatt, Greg Houston, Cameron K. Lewis, Bill Mayer, Luke McGarry, Kevin McVeigh, Thomas Pitilli, Joe Reece, Julio Salgado
PHOTOGRAPHERS Wednesday Aja, Ed Carrasco, Brian Ernen, Scott Feinblatt, Brian Feinzimer John Gilhooley, Eric Hood, Nick Iverson, Allix Johnson, Matt Kollar, Isaac Larios, Danny Liao, Fabian Ortiz, Jasué Rivas, Eran Ryan, Sugarwolf, Matt Ufelder, Miguel Vasconcellos, Christopher Victorio, William Vo, Kevin Warn, Micah Wright

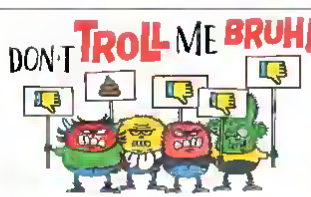
PRODUCTION
ART DIRECTOR Richie Beckman
LAYOUT DESIGNER/PRODUCTION ARTIST Mercedes Del Real

SALES
PUBLISHER Cynthia Rebollede
SALES DIRECTOR Kevin Davis
SALES MANAGER Jason Hamelberg
SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE Danny Hudgins
ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES Daniel Voet, Jason Winder

MARKETING
DIGITAL COORDINATOR Dennis Estrada

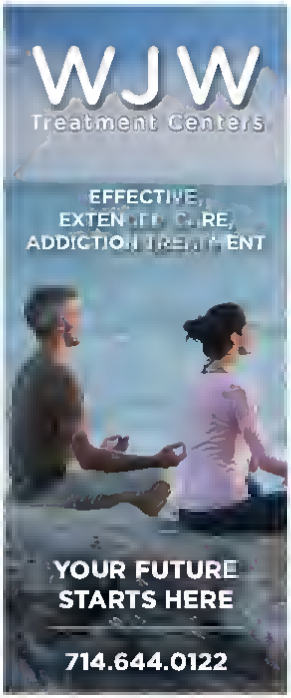
ADMINISTRATION
PRESIDENT & CEO Duncan McIntosh
VICE PRESIDENT & GENERAL MANAGER Jeff Fleming
AR COORINNATAR Harlinda Ortiz

OC Weekly is licensed at 18475 Sandifer Circle, Fountain Valley CA 92708, (714) 550-5800. Display Advertising, (714) 550-5900; Classified Advertising, (714) 550-5900; National Advertising, (800) 278-3866, wwwmediagroup.com; Fax, (714) 550-5905; Advertising Fax, (714) 550-5905; Classified Fax, (714) 550-5909; Circulation (800) 726-7223. Website, www.ocweekly.com. The publication is free, one per reader. Removal of more than one paper from any distribution point constitutes theft, and violators are subject to prosecution. Please address all correspondence to OC Weekly 18475 Sandifer Circle Fountain Valley, CA 92708, email letters@ocweekly.com. Published weekly (Thursday). OC Weekly is wholly owned and operated by OC Weekly News, Inc. a California corporation. Subscription price $98 for six months 360 per year POSTMASTER: Send address changes to OC Weekly at P. O. Box 25506, Santa Ana CA 92799. Submissions of all materials are welcome. Address them to the editor and include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Copyright ©2018, OC Weekly News, Inc. All rights reserved. OC Weekly® is a registered trademark of OC Weekly News, Inc. Rolling Paper™ is a trademark of OC Weekly News, Inc.



"Nice labelling, calling a Hispanic person a 'cholo.' OC Weekly is racist and hateful!"
— Scooter Michael Timbers commenting on Gabriel San Roman's "OCCA Releases Body Camera Footage of Anaheim Cop Shooting Cholo"

Our response: Since when is calling someone a *cholo* an insult, *papi chulo*?



Purple Reign

Please stop saying Orange County is 'turning blue'

BY ANTHONY PIGNATARO

It's not the first time that the headlines are all wrong. "Orange County goes blue, as Democrats complete historic sweep of its seven congressional seats," the *Los Angeles Times* trumpeted on Nov. 17. The same day, *Politico* reported that "Cisneros defeats Kim in Southern California, turning Orange County blue." The next day, *HuffPost* ran with "Orange County, A Conservative Bastion, Turns Blue for the First Time in Decades."

No, folks, Orange County didn't turn blue—the *Times* especially should know that.

"It's not turning blue," Chapman University political science professor Fred Smoller agreed, adding, "It's turning purple."

In other words, control over the county is largely divided. Yes, Democrats now hold the seven congressional seats that cover the county. It's a huge achievement—but it's not a signal that the whole county has gone Democratic. In fact, you don't have to look very far to see that even after the 2018 election, Orange County Republicans remain heavily entrenched. "Republicans are not out of it," Smoller said. "They control most city councils and most school boards."

Republicans also control the entire Orange County Board of Supervisors, though that seems to be changing. Democrat Doug Chaffee currently holds a tiny 572-vote lead over Republican Tim Shaw, and there will be a special election in early 2019 for the Third District seat (Supervisor Todd Spitzer just got himself elected District Attorney).

Local seats on school boards and city councils are important to a party because they act as farm teams for more powerful offices, ensuring long-term political control. There are many, many elected Republicans throughout Orange County, and that ensures the party will continue to hold power for some time.

Even after the election, Republicans control four of the county's seven Assembly seats and three of the five state Senate seats, though Democrat Tom Umberg's lead over incumbent Republican Janet Nguyen in the 34th is razor-thin at press time (in fact, the lead is so close that Umberg sent an email to supporters on Nov. 20 cheering his "50.1 percent-to-49.9 percent" lead).

Despite the heavy push by Democrats throughout the OC Congressional races, it looks as though Republicans such as State Senator—and Senate Minority Leader—Pat Bates (36th District) and Assembly members Phillip Chen (55th District), Steven Choi (68th District), Tyler Diep (72nd District) and William Brough (73rd District) will all retain their seats.

CHOI: HOLDING ON TO HIS ASSEMBLY SEAT

STEVEN CHOI FACEBOOK PAGE

These are some pretty safe spaces for Republicans. GOP-registration advantages in these districts range from five points (the 55th and 72nd districts) to 19 points (the 73rd District). The 73rd, which spans South County and is about 70 percent white, is a veritable Republican fortress.

But this isn't to say that Democrats didn't make some progress at the state level. In addition to the possibility that Umberg will unseat Nguyen (which shouldn't be surprising, given that there are more registered Democrats than Republicans in that district), Democrat Cottie Petrie-Norris is maintaining a comfortable lead over incumbent Republican Matthew Harper in the 74th Assembly District. That's a substantial victory, given that the 74th covers central coastal Orange County, where Republicans hold an eight-point registration advantage over Democrats.

"I've been here 35 years, and the Republicans have gone from 20 percent advantage in registrations in 1990 to 1 percent today," Smoller said. "In the Congressional races, the accelerant was Trump. He sped things along. But the numbers are not looking good for Republicans. Latinos and Asians are half the electorate, and they trend Democratic."

That's in the long term. Right now, the county remains very much a mix of red and blue power centers. It is indeed "purple," as Smoller said, and will likely remain that way for some time.

LETTERS@OCWEEKLY.COM

POLITICAL FOOTBALL

» STEVE LOWERY

Buffalo Bills vs. Miami Dolphins

Buffalo update: You know the old saying "No one is really *from* Buffalo. Wait a minute . . . Yes, some people are. Man, that is so sad"? Local tourism department really struggled fitting *that* on a T-shirt. Yes, Buffalo is a sad place, a large part of that being how cold the place is, and it's getting colder. In fact, this past Thanksgiving was the coldest Thanksgiving in the city ever. How could this be? Perhaps because science has much more sophisticated tools to gauge temperature and human misery—what the science folks refer to as the Wind-Chill-Why-We-Here? Factor. There's another reason, one that explains not only why Buffalo is getting colder, but also why California fires and 500-year storms now come a couple of times per year: climate change. The federal government agrees, and said so in a recently released report that said climate change could cost the U.S. a whopping 10 percent of its GDP—and, oh, yeah, a bunch of people will die. The report was supposed to be released in December, but instead, it was released the day after Thanksgiving by the Trump administration because it figured no one was paying attention and it doesn't care if people die. That's not a joke. Rake your weeds.

Miami update: Miami is in Florida, and Florida is fucked-up. You know, "A Florida man . . ." But the thing about Miami is that it is fucked-up in a decidedly different way than the rest of the state. It's a major city, with a large, diverse population as opposed to the rest of the state, which is predominately white and predominately believes an industrious and entertaining Saturday night has been achieved with equal parts booze and/or meth and sticking one's junk someplace it was never intended to be stuck, say, a carburetor or the hot oil fryer at McDonald's. That is not to say Miami is any better or safer. It's just that in Miami, you're more likely to get killed by the cops, whereas in the rest of the state you're just as likely to be killed by an alligator. Or a cop. Who will then feed you to an alligator.

Who to root for: Buffalo. Trying to rank the coldest days in Buffalo is like trying to rank the stupidest things Donald Trump has ever uttered, though one of them certainly would have been about the cold. He recently tweeted: "Brutal and extended cold blast could shatter ALL RECORDS. Whatever happened to Global Warming?" How do you explain to a moron there's a difference between "weather" and "climate" when he admits he fails to recognize the distinction between "yes," "no" and "Don't grab me there, perv!"

LETTERS@OCWEEKLY.COM

Don't Mess With Bill

» MATT COKER

BROWDER: RED NOTICE

Bill Browder is celebrating two defeats for Russian President Vladimir Putin this month: Kremlin interior ministry official Alexander Prokopchuk's loss to a South Korean candidate for Interpol president on Nov. 20, and Dana Rohrabacher's failure to get re-elected in the 48th Congressional District on Nov. 6.

Chicago-born Browder is a financier and economist who gave up his American citizenship in 1998 to avoid paying taxes related to foreign investments. Now a 54-year-old Brit, he is CEO and co-founder of Hermitage Capital Management, an investment fund that once was the largest foreign-portfolio investor in Russia.

In 2007, Hermitage's Moscow office was raided by interior ministry officers with a search warrant that alleged a company administered by Browder's fund had underpaid its taxes. But because Russian tax authorities had just written the company stating it overpaid its taxes, Browder hired Russian tax accountant Sergei Magnitsky to investigate.

Magnitsky's probe exposed a massive tax-refund fraud put in motion by Russian officials, but after Hermitage presented its findings to the Kremlin, the tax accountant was arrested for colluding with Browder's company.

Eight days before a one-year time limit to either try or release Magnitsky, who was suffering from multiple medical issues without receiving proper treatment, he died in his Moscow prison cell. That sparked an international uproar and the Kremlin's formation of a human rights council, which concluded Magnitsky was beaten to death.

Browder lobbied the U.S. Congress to pass the Magnitsky Act, which punished Russian officials for the slaying of the legislation's namesake. After the bill received bipartisan support, President Barack Obama signed it into law in December 2012.

Putin hates the Magnitsky Act so much that he unleashed Kremlin minions to lobby U.S. legislators and Donald Trump's son and son-in-law into killing the law. One point per son-in-law in this campaign had been the Russian leader's favorite (and now ex-) congressman, which is why Browder tweeted this on Nov. 12. "Rohrabacher's demise is very important for two reasons. One is that he was a Putin-loving monster who seemed to have an obsession with repealing the Magnitsky Act. But also because it sends a clear message that being a Putin stooge is an election loser."

COURTESY OF WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

Browder feared that Prokopchuk would use Interpol to achieve what Putin has failed to do: bring the Hermitage CEO back to Moscow to be tried for fraud, tax evasion and the recently added charge of murdering Magnitsky.

"The idea that Russia would be in charge of the international police organizations is one of the most horrifying things anyone can imagine," Browder told reporters, "but particularly so for anyone who is being targeted by the Kremlin."

MCOKER@OCWEEKLY.COM

HeyYou!

» ANONYMOUS

Love Thy Neighbor

You're my older neighbor who is so hot and good-looking. I'm so grateful to have you in my life...and I just wanted to confess to you and the world that I'm in love with you!

BOB AUL

HEY, YOU! Send anonymous thanks, confessions or accusations—changing or deleting the names of the guilty and innocent—to "Hey You!" c/o *OC Weekly*, 18475 Bandilier Circle, Fountain Valley, CA 92708, or email us at letters@ocweekly.com.

The Holiday Shopping Extravaganza!

GEM FAIRE

GEM FAIRE

NOV. 30 ~ to ~ DEC. 2

COSTA MESA

OC Fair & Event Center

(88 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa, CA)

GEM FAIRE HOURS:

FRI 12pm-6pm | SAT 10am-6pm | SUN 10am-5pm

*Bring this ad to receive $2 OFF admission

Admission $7

JEWELRY ✧ CRYSTALS ✧ GEMS ✧ BEADS

SILVER ✧ MINERALS ✧ FOSSILS

Jewelry Repair | Largest Selection | New Vendors!

*Not valid with other offer. ONE per person. Property of Gem Faire, Inc. can be revoked without notice. Non-transferrable.

Sponsored by GEM FAIRE, INC | (503) 252-6300 | GEMFAIRE.COM

St. James Church Welcomes New Senior Pastor

Costa Mesa, CA – November 28, 2018

St. James Anglican Church has announced that Rev. Canon Brian Schulz will be instituted as their Rector (Senior Pastor) by Bishop Right Rev. Dr. Keith Andrews of a special service held at 10 am on Sunday, December 9. The Service of Institution will take place at St. James Anglican Church, located at 2995-A Airway Avenue in Costa Mesa.

Senior Warden Dr. Margie Armstrong indicated there was a nation-wide search for the new leader, a process that began earlier in the year. According to Dr. Armstrong "Pastor Brian Schulz is an experienced leader in the Anglican Church of North America (ACNA) and in church planting in Southern California. He will bring a bright, new energy to Costa Mesa in order to draw more people to Christ and St. James. We are looking forward to Pastor Brian and his family's arrival at St. James in early December."

Pastor Brian Schulz joined the Peace Corps after college and worked as an English teacher in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He returned to the U.S. and started a career in marketing. Eventually, he began theological studies at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena. While in seminary, he began working with a group of people who with him formed Christ's Church in Yucaipa. Pastor Brian comes to St. James with over ten years experience as a Senior Pastor in Yucaipa. Pastor Brian says "St. James is a wonderful church of Spirit-filled Christians who vibrantly emanate the love and joy of the Lord. I want to see St. James fulfill the call Jesus himself gave to the church, to make disciples who love and serve the community we live in."

St. James Anglican Church was established in 1946 and is affiliated with the Anglican Church in North America. St. James is a member of the Diocese of Western Anglicans. For the last four years, the church facilities have been located on 2995-A Airway Avenue in Costa Mesa.

949 999 3900 | 2995-A Airway, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

ADVERTORIAL

PRESERVING THE CRAFT

TEN YEARS AFTER TRAGEDY, THE DRAGON AND THE ROSE EMERGES AS THE HUB FOR OC PAGANS

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

PHOTOS BY JOHN GILHO

A full moon beams as if a soft gemstone above Grovemont Square in Santa Ana. Hidden in the business plaza, next to the Dragon and the Rose, an occult store offering Wiccan, pagan and metaphysical wares, is a humble altar, atop of which sit goblets filled with wine and cider in preparation for an autumn-equinox ritual.

Adelaida "Addie" Velasquez takes a bundle of sage and waves its purifying smoke around store owner Karen Estremo's outstretched arms. "Welcome and blessed be," the two exchange after a slight bow in reverence of each other.

Velasquez then turns to those gathered for the occasion. A black shawl drapes over the shoulders of the high priestess' lavender dress, and a floral crown rests on her long, curly, black locks. She greets the circle with "Welcome to our Mabon celebration."

Mabon is one of eight Wiccan sabbats, festivals honoring seasons pagans dub the "turning of the wheel." The equality of night and day is marked during Mabon, traditionally, it's also a time of thanksgiving, in which the second harvest is celebrated, harking back to paganism's rural roots. Velasquez creates a sacred circle, dotting the grounds with a saltwater mixture to represent earth and water.

Emily Hanscom, a fellow priestess, follows with an incense stick representing air and fire. "Hand and hand, we cast a circle," the gathered each recite.

Next, Velasquez invokes Greek deities with a voice that booms with conviction. Demeter, the goddess of the harvest, is called, followed by Dionysus, god of winemaking. "I spilled the wine," Velasquez suddenly exclaims.

"Dionysus demanded it," a voice jokes.

The ritual then focuses on a black cauldron. The circle—young and old, mostly women, but all inclusive—anoints Mabon tea lights and places them into the cauldron one at a time. "They look so beautiful," Velasquez says, bending to look at the flickering flames. In the spirit of Mabon, all take turns professing gratitude for occasions in life such as a recent marriage, new home and just another waking day.

Deities are bid farewell, and the flames of the candles marking the four corners are extinguished. "Cheers to all of you," Velasquez says. "Cheers to all the gods. Happy Mabon!"

"When do we howl at the moon?" a woman anxiously interjects.

The circle comes together to cry out in unison.

Much like the celebratory gathering outside the Dragon and the Rose, the pagan community in Orange County is small, but growing. Nationally, about 734,000 people identify as Wiccan or pagan, according to a 2014 Pew Research Center survey. Wicca is just one modern form of paganism, religions with roots that date back millennia before Christianity became the dominant faith across Europe. These days, there's little in the way of formal institutions in OC aside from the local council of the national Covenant of the Goddess, college clubs

and the Goddess Temple in Irvine. Wiccans much prefer covens and circles, they join together with other like-minded people for annual Pagan Pride celebrations in Long Beach.

In this religious constellation, the Dragon and the Rose plays an outsized role. "That store is the heartbeat of the pagan community in Orange County!" says Candy Eaton, a high priestess. "They're there to serve."

The pagan path chose Estremo in many ways.

"Guess what, I'm a Wiccan!" Estremo's daughter, Arielle Rose Estremo, revealed one day after school.

"I don't know what that is!" Estremo responded to the then-14-year-old's declaration, clearly caught off-guard. "No, sweetie, you're an Episcopalian."

The two discussed religion at length. Estremo had raised her family in the Trinity Episcopal Church in Orange, and Arielle had been involved with its youth group. "I can be both," the high-schooler contended.

Motherly instincts kicked in. The more Estremo resisted, the more alluring Wicca would become; besides, it was probably just a teenage phase, right? But Estremo gave Arielle a parting task: She had to get an Episcopalian priest to give her dual religiosity a stamp of approval. The first call lasted about 45 minutes before the priest abruptly ended the conversation. Arielle found a more receptive priest the second time around; she gave her blessing, relaying that Arielle was a traveler who'd find her path to the divine.

Starting upon that path, Arielle befriended James Kendrick at Orange High School's Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corp (JROTC) program, which she had enrolled in following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. He recalls the freshman being the tallest, most outspoken person in class. "She also had one of the biggest hearts of anybody I ever knew," he says. Arielle asked her new friend about religion one day. "My religious views are kind of Christian and kind of old paganism," Kendrick says of his syncretism of Polynesian polytheism and Scottish Presbyterianism. "Arielle, being the very curious person that she was, wanted to know more."

With a few high school friends, Kendrick and Arielle formed a small coven. The group turned to Barnes & Noble and Hot Topic to find books on the subject. Once reared in the basics of rituals, the coven headed to Hart Park in Orange, Santiago Park in Santa Ana and the Newport Dunes for observances of full moons and Wiccan sabbats such as Mabon. "Is this goat- or human-sacrifice night?" Estremo remebers teasing her daughter. "I figured they all watched *The Craft* too many times."

The coven didn't last past high school; by graduation, only Arielle and Kendrick remained. The friendship continued, as did Arielle's commitment to Wicca. "She embraced it and was not afraid at all to demonstrate and be proud of what she was," Kendrick says. "She would find whatever book she could, anywhere she could, even stealing my collection of books!"

After graduation, Arielle enlisted in the Army. She attended pagan "earthbound" services while undergoing basic training. But military life didn't work out for her, and after an honorable discharge, Arielle returned home and found a new coven of sorts in Club Xile, a Goth nightspot in Garden Grove. She became a street-team volunteer promoting the venue.

Along with a group of friends, Arielle headed to a Hollywood nightclub on May 15, 2008, to spread the word about Club Xile. On the way home the next morning, a drunk driver heading the wrong way on the freeway slammed head-on into Arielle's car; the collision claimed the 20-year-old's life.

Around 6:30 a.m., Estremo received the devastating news from a friend of Arielle's by phone. Panicked,

ESTREMO "TOOK ME IN WHEN I WAS ON THE VERGE OF BEING HOMELESS," VELASQUEZ SAYS. "SHE CREATED THIS STABILITY AND UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT."

she tuned the television to a local news channel, which showed the scene near the Slauson Avenue exit in Commerce that had closed the 5 freeway for hours. News cameras zoomed in on a folded-up silver Sentra. Estremo recognized her daughter's car. Reality began to seep in, and she sat in disbelief.

"I was completely out of myself," Estremo says. "This can't possibly be happening again?" Fifteen years prior, before the family moved to OC, she lost her 19-month-old son, Kenyon, when he drowned in a backyard pool.

Estremo called the California Highway Patrol in a frantic attempt to confirm what happened to her daughter. The agency noted that the crash led to three fatalities, but told her only the coroner's office could provide the identities of the victims. In the meantime, Estremo called some of Arielle's friends, reaching one at the hospital who could verify everything.

She rushed upstairs to get dressed to go to the hospital, but when she came back down, a representative from the coroner's office was waiting.

"When Arielle died, it blew the doors off the hinges on everything I believed," she says.

By noon, ABC7 reported Arielle's death alongside that of 20-year-old Chauncey Reid, a friend and passenger in the Sentra. The wrong-way driver, 27-year-old Steven Quintero, also died in the crash. Officials awaited toxicology tests to determine if drugs and alcohol played a role. After the headlines disappeared, Estremo learned Quintero had a blood-alcohol level more than twice the legal limit.

Trinity Episcopal Church hosted Arielle's funeral services five days after the crash. Afterward, Estremo sorted through her daughter's belongings. When she had moved out of the house, Arielle left behind a few things, including a bookcase with a cupboard full of literature on Wicca and paganism. But Scott Cunningham's *Wicca: A Guide for the Solitary Practitioner* stood out to Estremo; she read it to better understand her daughter's beliefs. "This all resonates," Estremo thought to herself. "It makes more sense than anything else I ever read in terms of my life experience and my experience of the world."

In her grief, Estremo sought a way to pay tribute to Arielle and her Wiccan beliefs, but the idea to open the Dragon and the Rose didn't come right away. Estremo first took in Hugh Robbins, a young man Arielle had met in the Goth scene and with whom, in her mother's words, Arielle became "completely twitterpated." The high priestess in Robbins' coven wanted to partner in starting a pagan supplies store. Having already run a successful catering business, Estremo bankrolled the plan. The Pentacle came into being after all involved found a unit in the back of an industrial building off Edinger Avenue in Santa Ana.

But the business relationship soured after just a few months.

Estremo decided to keep the space, renaming it the Dragon and the Rose after Arielle's middle name and Robbins' fascination with dragons. It reopened eleven months after Arielle's death. "This will be able to be of service to all her people—all the little pagans, all the little Gothlings, all the little weirdos like her," Estremo thought.

A pair of Cal State Fullerton students peruse the Dragon and the Rose one afternoon. Estremo fills mason jars with stones while waiting to transfer the shop's impressive array of crystals into a new display case. Sally, the in-house black cat, curls up in a corner. One side of a wall is outfitted with baggies filled with herbs for ritual magick. The others offer tarot decks, candles, wands, sage and incense. The Dragon and the Rose's book collection started humbly with a handful of selections from Arielle and Kendrick's personal stash, but now the store's bookcases are stacked with titles new and old.

"We like to say that we have everything for the practice of alternative paths," Estremo says.

The Dragon and the Rose outgrew its first location long ago. When Estremo found an available space at Grovemont Square last January, she took the opportunity, but not without pause. "This was a huge leap of faith for us," she says. With a larger space came higher rent, but

» CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

CITY NATIONAL GROVE OF ANAHEIM
The Adam Carolla Show.
Friday, November 30
EASTON CORBIN
Sunday, December 16
PETER MURPHY 40 YEARS OF BAUHAUS
Wednesday, January 16
STYX
Friday, January 18
RON WHITE
Friday, January 25
DSB'S 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY
Saturday, February 2
WHICH ONES PINK?
QUEEN NATION
Friday, March 1
FEE-FREE FIRST MONDAYS
VISIT THE BOX OFFICE TO PURCHASE TICKETS WITHOUT ANY ADDITIONAL SERVICE FEES FOR ALL UPCOMING SHOWS BETWEEN 10AM-5PM ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 3!
TICKETED BY EXS

LIVE MUSIC IN DTSA
ORIGINAL MIKES
100 S. MAIN ST., SANTA ANA
MAIN ST. BLUES II
THE 44'S W/ ERIC VONHERZEN, JOHNNY MAIN, THE SILVER KINGS
SAT. DECEMBER 1 • 7:30 PM
CÉSAR ROSAS Y LOS TEXMANIACS
THURS. DECEMBER [illegible] • 7:30 PM
KING LEG
JOHN SURGE & THE HAYMAKERS
FRI. DECEMBER 7 • 7:30 PM
JAMES INTVELD'S HILLBILLY CHRISTMAS
SUN. DECEMBER [illegible] • 4-5 PM
THE YOST
307 N SPURGEON ST., SANTA ANA
ROCKABILLY GUITAR
ROCKABILLY GUITAR FEST
JAMIE JAMES & KINGBEES
+ MORE
FRI. JANUARY 25 • 7:30 PM
Holiday Shows
at Campus Jax in Newport Beach
3950 Campus Dr. Newport Beach
DEC. 13
SURFIN' - ULTIMATE BEACH BOYS CHRISTMAS PARTY
DEC. 30
JAMES INTVELD'S NYE PRE-PARTY
DEC. 31
TIKIYAKI ORCHESTRA
JUNGLE JETSETTERS NYE
TICKET SALES & MORE INFO
WWW.STELLARSHOWS.NET

PRESERVING THE CRAFT

» FROM PAGE 9

the shop was ready "Within our first four days, we made the rent," she says.

The good fortune also afforded Estremo the confidence to open an annex when an additional unit became available It features a small meditation room with a portrait of the Buddha hanging overhead. Other rooms are used for massage appointments or reiki sessions A mural of the tree of life with the words "as above, so below" adorns the wall of a narrow corridor where meetings and small yoga classes are sometimes held. "We're growing a lot," Estremo says. "We got busy enough that we could actually hire other people"

Velasquez, who is now the store manager, recalls walking into the Dragon and the Rose's old location while a senior in high school. "My friend was looking for a tarot deck," she says. "We came in and met Karen. She talked about how she was teaching classes" Formal training in crystals, herbal magick and ritual observance proved alluring, only Velasquez didn't have any money Estremo waved the cost in exchange for occasional help around the shop

She became an ordained high priestess about three years ago, but the relationship between Velasquez and Estremo goes beyond teacher and apprentice "[Karen] took me in when I was on the verge of being homeless," Velasquez says. "She created this stability and unconditional support."

Velasquez also helped fill a void in Estremo's life. To celebrate Velasquez's 21st birthday, Estremo took her out for a celebratory shot of Jameson at a local Irish pub, a rite of passage denied to her when Arielle died just days after her 20th birthday. "I'm young, Honduran, born and raised in Santa Ana," Velasquez points out. "Karen's kind of the exact opposite of that. I don't know how that worked out, but it did"

Because it does, the duo helped turn the Dragon and the Rose into the hub of OC's larger pagan community "I would rather have [Arielle] and not have done any of this good in the world if I had a choice, but I didn't have a choice," Estremo says "Looking back on what we've done in the last 10 years and what my intention was with regard to doing something in Arielle's memory, I think she'd be really proud."

Eaton, a proud witch as evidenced by the silver pentacle pendent (the encircled, five-pointed star wrongly associated with Satanism) dangling from her necklace, has been Wiccan for 30 years. She recalls what OC paganism looked like in 1996, long before the Dragon and the Rose and even Pagan Pride Day existed The community barely felt comfortable enough to start shedding its "keep it safe, keep it secret" ethos given stereotypes perpetuated by churches for centuries and, later, Hollywood.

The popularity of the internet and social media started turning the tide. Pagan Pride Day LA/OC began in 1999 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Long Beach. "People were starting to come out of the broom closets much more than they ever did before," Eaton says. "All of a sudden, people started owning their practice." She found work at the Gift Goddess, a metaphysical, witchy store in San Juan Capistrano, for a couple of years during her 20s Around that time, she also got involved in the Craft Connection, a since-disbanded pagan group that met once a month and observed rituals in Laguna Hills A drum circle held at the Gift Goddess is where Eaton discovered her passion for percussion.

She met Estremo in 2010 and now holds drum circles every third Saturday at the Dragon and the Rose. "Karen's fully authentic," Eaton says, adding about Velasquez, "I've watched Addie come from being a baby witch to this beautiful priestess that she is now"

"LOOKING BACK ON WHAT WE'VE DONE IN THE LAST 10 YEARS . . . I THINK ARIELLE WOULD BE REALLY PROUD." ESTREMO SAYS.

Velasquez is coming into her own at a pivotal time in the community "There is an increasing interest in witchcraft, for sure," she says. "The clusterfuck that the country sort of is right now is kind of fueling things, as well as popular culture like *The Chilling Adventures of Sabrina the Teenage Witch*."

The #MeToo movement is also piquing interest in the craft, she believes, with many women searching to heal their traumas

With the Dragon and the Rose as important as ever, the Honduran high priestess may also guide it into the future "I see myself continuing to stay with the shop, helping it grow and maybe even have a bigger space so that we can offer more to the community," Velasquez says. "Something Karen and I talked about over the years was whenever she's ready to step down from the shop, she'd hand the keys over to me"

"We are gathered here this night to celebrate Samhain, the final harvest," Estremo says outside the Dragon and the Rose. "This is a time when the veil between the world of men and the world of

VELASQUEZ AND ESTREMO INSIDE THE DRAGON AND THE ROSE

spirits is the thinnest, a time when we can commune more easily with those we have loved and lost." Fifty people gather on the eve of Halloween for one of the most important pagan holidays, which has also been called "Witches New Year." At the center of tables set up for dining rests an altar with a framed portrait of Arielle from the shop.

Estremo rings a bell, and conversations quiet. She holds a lit candle and recites the names of deceased loved ones, starting with Arielle. The candle is then passed to all in the circle who do the same. Next comes time for the Silent Supper. Pagans line up to pile their plates with offerings from the potluck buffet. When everyone has taken a seat, Estremo rings a bell three times. Only crickets chirping join the shifting sounds of people eating in quietude. After the ritual dinner, Estremo, Robbins and Hanscom join together to sing "The Parting Glass," a traditional song popular in Ireland and Scotland about death from the perspective of the dead.

"Good night, and joy be with you all," the trio sings.

Even though the lines between life and death blur greatly during Samhain, Estremo believes she has received messages from beyond at other times that set her on a trying spiritual journey. A suggestion first came from a friend of Arielle's who called Estremo to pass along a message he says he got from her deceased daughter. "You need to forgive him," the friend said. Estremo had no clue what that meant or who it pertained to, but the refrain resurfaced verbatim about a year later during a psychic faire at the shop.

A psychic sat down with Estremo and relayed the same message. This time, she pressed for an answer; she didn't like the one she got. Steven Quintero, the driver who had killed her daughter, Estremo protested. "This is a gift from her to you," the psychic said. "You need to do this."

"How do you forgive somebody who's not here?" Estremo asked herself. "What are the mechanics of that?"

She began thinking about the fatal accident and how her initial fears centered on Arielle causing the carnage, taking two lives with her. "She didn't drive on the freeway much," Estremo says. "Dealing with her dead would be enough, but that she caused two others [to die]? I don't think I could do that." It suddenly dawned on Estremo that such fears were Quintero's mother's reality. She began piecing together what happened that night from people in the know to form a fragmented narrative in which Quintero celebrated closing his first big business deal by drinking too much before taking the wheel.

"He made a mistake," Estremo says. "I thought about his mother and how much pain she must be in, like me, only more because her son caused this tragedy."

She sat down with her thoughts. The crash had allowed anger to take hold of her, and she struggled for months with the notion of letting it go. Estremo penned a letter to Quintero's mother, wishing her peace. "About two weeks later," Estremo says, "I get this card from her, and she wrote this beautiful response."

The two mothers helped to lift each other's pain.

Though it has been a decade since she lost her daughter, it still seems so sudden. "The truth of the matter is that I didn't appreciate her when I had her," Estremo says. "I would cheerfully trade everything to have her back. In the meantime, I've got Addie. She is my other daughter, and Hugh is my other son."

And then there's the Dragon and the Rose, where Arielle takes on an afterlife through the store. "Every time I go in, there's Arielle's pictures on the wall," Kendrick says.

Its presence seems as unlikely as anything else. "We started this?" he asks. "This group of outcast kids being in Orange County? It literally is the mecca of the pagan community."

GSANROMAN@OCWEEKLY.COM

NEED QUICK CASH?
Call to get $2,600 or more
Turn your Title into CASH!!
Take the CASH Keep the CAR
Bad Credit? No Problem!
Quick Cash® FUNDING
520 N. BROOKHURST ST. SUITE 220
ANAHEIM, CA 92801
(714) 535-9388 | (866) 507-5626
Loans will be made or arranged pursuant to a Desktop Straight California Financing Law License

NOW HIRING
City of Long Beach
Fire Recruit
Apply online:
www.longbeach.gov/civilservice
562.570.6202
City of Long Beach Civil Service Department, 333 W. Ocean Blvd., 7th Floor, Long Beach, CA 90802
An Equal Opportunity Employer
LONG BEACH
FIRE DEPARTMENT
SEMPER PARATUS
HONOR & TRADITION
CALIFORNIA

*calendar

monday›
GRUNGE ALL HE

ASHLAN GREY

fri/11/30

[FOOD & DRINK]

HOLIDAY BEERS
Nightmare Before Christmas Beer Festival

Ever wanted to get drunk in Halloween Town? You'll have to hurry, as tickets for this weekend's *Nightmare Before Christmas* Beer Festival are going fast. There's a *Nightmare Before Christmas* Booze Cruise happening, too, but it sold out so quickly organizers had to put together this overflow fest on land—well, aboard the docked *Queen Mary*, where the Grand Salon is made over as Jack Skellington's hometown. Songs from the movie will be sung by the Skeleton Sisters, plus there's karaoke with Oogie Boogie and unlimited seasonal samples from local breweries. Because while there's less than 30 days until Christmas, there's also less than 340 days until Halloween.

Nightmare Before Christmas Beer Festival at the *Queen Mary*, 1126 Queens Hwy., Long Beach, (877) 342-0739, www.rockstarbeer.com. 6:30 p.m., also Dec. 14. $40. 21+. —ERIN DEWITT

[THEATER]

How Very
Heathers the Musical

The beloved 1989 black comedy about two high-school misfits who kill off the powerful jocks and queen bees of the school is already one of the best cult films of all time, but after getting the musical adaptation treatment here by Laurence O'Keefe and Kevin Murphy, *Heathers* is destined to win a whole new following. The production pretty much follows the plot of the original, only here, the film's dark themes of teenage suicide, sexual assault, bullying and violence are set to humorous rock songs. Klubbouse offers it as an immersive experience, so set aside your teen-angst bullshit for a night and come dressed in your best '80s attire to lick it up, baby! Lick. It. Up.

Heathers the Musical at Arts & Learning Conservatory, 151 Kalmus Dr., Ste. G-3, Costa Mesa; klubbousearts.com/heathers. 7:30 p.m. Through Dec. 9. $20. —AIMEE MURILLO

sat/12/01

[CONCERT]

TURN IT UP
Save Ferris

It's been almost two years since the rebooted Save Ferris made their triumphant return to Orange County—festival dates withstanding. Following the release of an EP, a lengthy globe-spanning tour and in the midst of working on a full-length album, Monique Powell leads her band of local heroes back in time for the holidays. Despite the acrimonious, continuously controversial circumstances that surround the disbandment of the original lineup, Powell and her fellow musicians continue to bring their feel-good brand of peppy ska to the masses. This Save Ferris are far more polished than their initial run, bringing a ton of fun to this show.

Save Ferris with Mest, the Untouchables and Hoist the Colors at the House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 Disney Way, Ste. 337, Anaheim, (714) 778-2583, www.houseofblues.com/anaheim. 7 p.m. $25. —WYOMING REYNOLDS

[FOOD & DRINK]

Cheerio!
Holly Berry Tea

Live your historical-tea-party dreams at the Heritage Museum's Holly Berry Tea. Put on by the Victorian Tea Society, this annual event is one of the most anticipated holiday festivities in the area, allowing guests to don their best Victorian attire and hats while enjoying one of two different dining experiences. The general ticket offers guests a menu of various sweet pastries and savory snacks and, of course, a selection of teas, while the Silver Service includes champagne and exclusive seating within the Kellogg House's pristine dining room as they are waited on by a formal staff. Either option provides the funnest social gathering in tribute to holiday traditions of centuries past. Pinkies up!

Holly Berry Tea at Heritage Museum, 3101 W. Harvard St., Santa Ana, (714) 540-0404, heritagemuseumoc.org. 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. $38-$50. —AIMEE MURILLO

sun/12/02

[HEALTH & FITNESS]

Naughty and Nice!

Mr. and Mrs. Santa Speedo Run

Orange County's LGBT Pride really outdo themselves each year while organizing what must be the most scintillating holiday 5K run. While Mile Square Park isn't as chilly as the North Pole, today's Mr. and Mrs. Santa Speedo Run will be a frosty fundraiser for participants as they run, walk or jog the course in their merriest running thongs—and everyone gets an award for finishing. Plus, participants are invited (with separate registration fees) to the post-run Drag Brunch at David L. Baker Golf Course. This is as good a time as any to don your gay apparel, whether that be holiday speedo, Santa beard or ugly Christmas sweater and join in on the exhibitionist fun!

Mr. and Mrs. Santa Speedo Run & Drag Brunch at Mile Square Park, 16801 Euclid St., Fountain Valley; www.PrideOC.com. 8 a.m. $30-$80. —AIMEE MURILLO

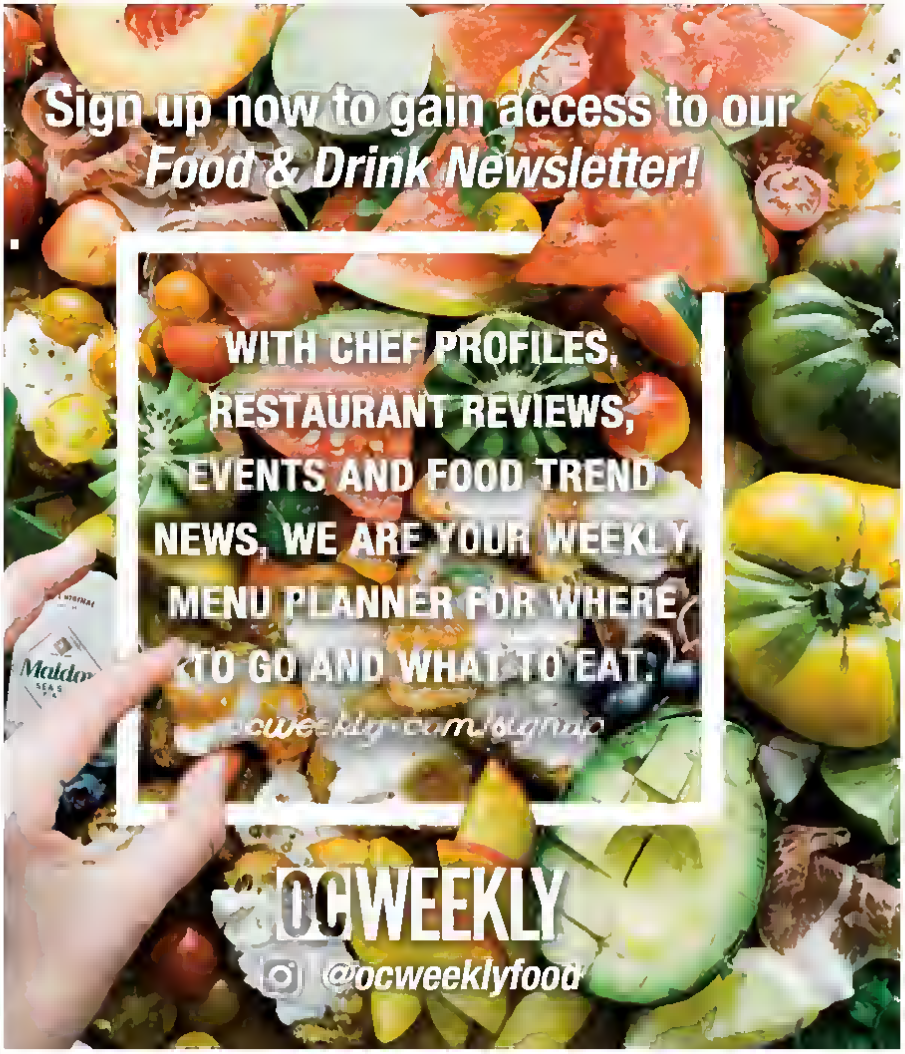
[THEATER]

Heartfelt Humor

A Very Merry Unscripted Christmas

Hallmark Channel's annual holiday specials are some of the corniest made-for-television movies around. They do, however, provide hilarious fodder for Modjeska Playhouse's improvised *A Very Merry Unscripted Christmas*. Returning to the stage by popular demand, the Modjeska Unscripted Theater cast will take various audience suggestions every night of the show's run to create a full-length play that parodies these films, offering as much over-the-top Christmas spirit, romance and seasonal magic as you can handle. So come, all ye faithful, and delight in some cheesy yuletide cheer!

A Very Merry Unscripted Christmas at Modjeska Playhouse, 21084 Bake Pkwy., Lake Forest, (949) 445-3674; www.mphstage.org. 5 p.m. Through Dec. 22. $20-$28. —AIMEE MURILLO


Sign up now to gain access to our
Food & Drink Newsletter!
WITH CHEF PROFILES, RESTAURANT REVIEWS, EVENTS AND FOOD TREND NEWS, WE ARE YOUR WEEKLY MENU PLANNER FOR WHERE TO GO AND WHAT TO EAT.
ocweekly.com/signup
OCWEEKLY
@ocweeklyfood

mon/12/03

[CONCERT]

Team Effort

Brockhampton

Who said boy bands were a thing of the past? Brockhampton is possibly the most inclusive boy band of all time, with multicultural members who identify under different genders and sensibilities. Out to redefine and break out of the traditional image, these talented Texans found fame releasing their own mixtapes, which transcend bubblegum pop and bleed into rap and hip-hop, while also serving as their own art collective. Teeming with artistic talent separately, together, they create one of the most immersive, exciting live shows ever.

Brockhampton at the Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600, www.observatoryoc.com. 9 p.m. $40. —AIMEE MURILLO

tue/12/04

[FOOD & DRINK]

Hot, Hot, Hot!

Hot Sauce & Beer Crawl

Not one, not two, but *three* hot-sauce makers will showcase their burning delights on one spicy evening that includes craft-beer-sipping stops at Anaheim's Asylum Brewing, Bottle Logic Brewing and Hoparazzi Brewing Co. In addition to Heatseeker, Mago and Ghost Scream's scorching samples of potentially painful potions, the daring souls who attend this Hot Sauce & Beer Crawl will also get a chance to taste a variety of the makers' personal favorite sauces with pizza from Out of the Park Pizza. Don't forget to upload videos of your low-heat-tolerance friends to YouTube!

Hot Sauce & Beer Crawl starts at Asylum Brewing, 2970 E. La Palma, Ste. D, Anaheim, (949) 396-2099; www.facebook.com/asylumbrewing. 6 p.m. $5-$20.
—SCOTT FEINBLATT

wed/12/05

[CONCERT]

Unzipped

Squirrel Nut Zippers

Though their last real commercial hit, "Hell," was a '30s jazz-revival staple in the '90s, Squirrel Nut Zippers are no less active in making people hit the dance floor in a swing-dancing frenzy. With a furious blend of blues, Gypsy jazz, folk, big band, klezmer and other sounds, the multi-instrumental combo have been steadily regaining their rhythm after disbanding temporarily and re-forming with a new lineup. Promoting their first album release in more than nine years, *Beasts of Burgundy*, Squirrel Nut Zippers are on the tour circuit this holiday season to reignite the flames their famous "Hell" single lit decades earlier, bringing a new era of tracks to inspire you to cut a rug all night. Welcome them back to the Coach House tonight.

Squirrel Nut Zippers at the Coach House, 33157 Camino Capistrano, San Juan Capistrano, (949) 496-8930, thecoachhouse.com. 8 p.m. $29.50.

—AIMEE MURILLO

[COMEDY]

FRIES WITH THAT?

Doughboys Live Podcast

It's not the sophisticated *Good Food* radio show on NPR, but comics Mike Mitchell and Nick Wiger's anti-foodie *Doughboys* podcast offers sociological good times about pretty bad food, its cultural history, and reviews of fast-food-chain fare or mass-market sit-down-restaurant grub. You might prefer hearing two funny people talk about rather than dine on it, or maybe you're listening while covertly consuming it in the car. But there are for sure two guilty pleasures here: culinary slumming and irreverent jokes from a couple of comics and their standup guests whose food criticism make you hungry for more. The dining duo will record an episode of *Doughboys* at the Brea Improv, an 18-and-older venue whose menu likely won't be spared.

Doughboys Podcast at Brea Improv, 180 S. Brea Blvd., Brea, (714) 482-0700, improv.com/brea. 8 p.m. $20-$50.

—ANDREW TONKOVICH

thu/12/06

[COMEDY]

HOLIDAY ROAST

Dysfunctional Holiday Revue

Chicago's famed Second City comedy troupe launched in December of 1959 and counts icons Catherine O'Hara, Tina Fey, Steve Carell and Stephen Colbert among its alumni. And now, it descends on Brea this holiday month to do what it does best: skewer conformist (and consumerist) culture—and split your sides, as well as your brains, while doing it. Come see the latest crop of satirists strut their stuff all over Christmas, Hanukkah, Ramadan, Kwanzaa and, of course, Santa himself through sketch comedy, improvisation, song and even a bit of shuffle. Nothing is sacred when it comes to Second City, so leave your PC at the door and be prepared to see all of your squishy seasonal sentiments totally slaughtered.

Dysfunctional Holiday Revue at Brea Improv, 120 S. Brea Blvd., Brea, (714) 482-0700; improv.com/brea. 8 p.m., also Dec. 7-9. $25. 18+. —SR DAVIES

[CONCERT]

On Deck

Madlib DJ Set

Madlib is less a musician than a universe. He started out making beats, but now he makes worlds and atmospheres. He started out crate-digging, but now he magically and cosmically creates, with records and/or instruments and/or samplers and his own unflaggingly iconoclastic inspiration. You can explore his discography (more than 20 years of it!) just as you'd explore anything else—find a place where the terrain looks inviting, then wander on in. (Maybe the *Medicine Show* series? Or the classic *Madvillainy*?) Jazz? Hip-hop? Music from several decades and several continents? He's worked with it all, and when he deejays, he'll make it work on you.

Madlib DJ Set at Marty's On Newport, 14401 Newport Ave., Tustin, (714) 544-1995, www.martysonnewport.com. 8 p.m. $30. 21+.

—CHRIS ZIEGLER

Events at Newport Dunes

Newport Dunes Unplugged
Ft. Nirvanish, Memary Lane, Great Pumpkin
Saturday, December 8th

Heatbeat City
Tribute to The Cars
At Back Bay Bistro
Friday, December 28th

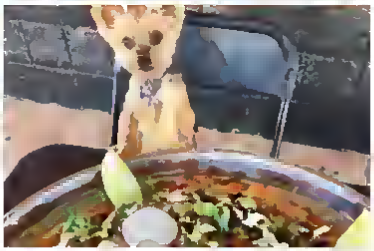
Dead Man's Party
At Back Bay Bistro
Saturday, December 29th

Reggae on the Beach
Don Carlos
w/ The Fully Fullwind Band
Empress Akua & Low Budget
At Tent Pavilion
Saturday, December 29th

Queen Nation
Saturday, January 19

949-729-3863
NewportDunes.com
Get Tickets: bit.ly/4NPTDUNES
Tickets available at TicketWeb.com

NEWPORT DUNES
WATERFRONT RESORT & MARINA


EDWIN GOEI

Let's Taco 'Bout Pizza

Mr. Taco Nice does tacos and pizzas and taco pizzas

BY EDWIN GOEI

You're in Anaheim. Not the fantasy Anaheim of Disney, but the real Anaheim, the one in which people work and live. On the way to your destination—a new *taqueria* called Mr. Taco Nice—you pass a liquor store that doubles as a payday loan. And when you arrive at the restaurant, you notice the menu offers no translations for any of the taco fillings because, well, if you're here at all, you already know what's inside a buche or a cabeza taco.

From an unseen kitchen, you hear the familiar *thump-thump-thump* of a cleaver chopping meat to bits on a wooden cutting board. At this *taqueria*, however, there is also pizza. However, the toppings include not only pepperoni and sausage, but also chorizo, carne asada and al pastor—the meats that normally go into tacos. These Mexitalian hybrids are the reason you're here.

It's also probably why the two twentysomething white guys behind you in line have come. As have you, they surely found the place while thumbing through Yelp. But you peg them as not from the neighborhood. There are BlizzCon badges on lanyards hanging from their necks, and they were just dropped off by an Uber.

Behind the two BlizzCon dudes are two auto mechanics in grease-streaked jumpsuits. At the front of the line, a woman in a hijab cradles her child as her husband places an order. Finally, it's your turn at the cashier. You tell the young lady with the fake, inch-long fingernails you want the "Mexican Meat Lovers" pizza—the one with *todas las carnes*. But you also can't resist asking for the birria taco combo, which, the menu says, "*incluye consomme*."

In anticipation of your meal, you stock up on all the salsas the self-serve bar has to offer. You ladle out samples of each one, as well as a few sliced cucumbers and radishes. You take your stash outside to the plastic picnic table shaded under a makeshift canopy.

Soon, the food arrives. The consommé turns out to be a small Styrofoam coffee cup containing soup made from the drippings and dregs from the pot that cooked the birria. And since you asked for the chivo, it's filled to the brim with the brick-red brew in which the sopping shreds of goat float. You take a sip and are immediately invigorated. It's spicy, salty and packed with the distilled essence of the beast. You feel the luscious fat and gamy meat slicking your lips with red grease the same time it comforts and satisfies your soul. To counter its richness and heat, you bite off some cooling radish and refreshing cucumber.

Tucked into the folds of two yellow tortillas with onions and cilantro, the tacos are filled with more goat meat. Some have sharp, crisped edges, as though they're deep-fried. You slather the salsa, take a bite, and notice the tortilla in the middle is soft and pliant while the one on the outside is coarse and crunchy. You devour the tacos, alternating between them and more sips of that addictive consommé.

Then the pizza arrives. It's exactly as you imagined: carpeted with pencil-eraser-sized nubs of all the taco meats and finished with a zigzag of sour cream and salsa. It's also garnished with lime wedges and rounds of radish, which seems merely cosmetic. You bold up a slice to take a bite. But since the meat is only loosely connected to the crust and cheese, you have to keep it level to keep them from tumbling off. The crust is thick and bready and could have used a few more minutes of baking to firm up the bottom. But the pieces of carne asada, chorizo and al pastor—especially the ones that are closer to burnt—prove that taco meat has just as much reason to be on a pizza as pepperoni and sausage.

But you notice you were wrong about the two BlizzCon dudes. They didn't order the pizza, they went for the burritos, which they're now holding in bags while waiting for another Uber to take them back to the convention center.

As you wonder why they decided not to eat on the premises, you hear someone yell, "Hey, fucker!"

You look up to see a grown man in baggy clothes and a shaved head riding a BMX bike on the sidewalk. The colorful greeting wasn't for you or the BlizzCon guys, but rather for his friend, who was walking the opposite direction across the street. He waves back. This is the real Anaheim.

MR. TACO NICE
1867 Katella Ave., Anaheim, (714) 603-7564
Open daily, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Pizzas, $6.99-$15.95; tacos, $1.39-$8.49

WHAT THE ALE
» GREG NAGEL

Fire Aid

When most breweries open, they say they want to be a part of the community. And most do, donating beer to nonprofit events, hosting events in their tasting rooms and collaborating with one another to create a community of brewers.

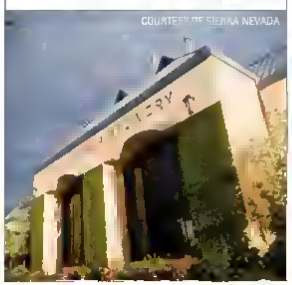
As the Camp, Woolsey and Paradise fires devastated California, it didn't take San Clemente's Artifex Brewing Co. (*919 Calle Amanecer, Ste. A, San Clemente, 949-429-7605, artifexbrewing.com*) long to respond, posting on Facebook, "Donations will be accepted throughout the weekend or until further notice. Blankets, sweat shirts, socks . . . anything helps! Drop off at Artifex!"

A completely full van made its way north to where Global Empowerment Mission, a nonprofit that helps with emergency relief, could distribute necessities to residents of the town of Paradise, which was destroyed by the Camp fire.

Sierra Nevada Brewing Co. (*1075 E. 20th St., Chico, 530-893-3520; sierranevada.com*), one of the largest independent and environmentally conscious beer producers, was so close to the flames it had to shut down operations. Founder Ken Grossman sent a note to craft brewers across the country: "We're brewing Resilience Butte County Proud IPA and donating 100 percent of sales to Camp Fire relief. In addition, we're also asking every brewery in America to brew Resilience and do the same." He's even working with malt and hop suppliers to provide raw ingredients to participating breweries. "We know that the rebuilding process will take time, but we're in this for the long haul," Grossman added.

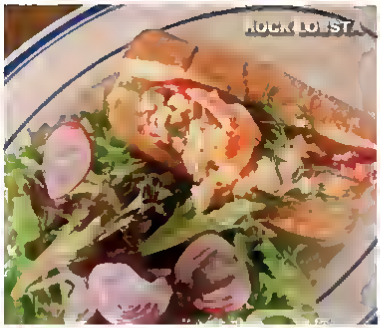
Look for Resilience IPA to appear probably mid-December, as well as additional opportunities to donate your time or money to assist those affected by the fires.

LETTERS@OCWEEKLY.COM


COURTESY OF SIERRA NEVADA

It's the Law

The Ordinarie goes all-American



ERIN DEWITT

LongBeachLunch
» ERIN DEWITT

Located on the north patch of Long Beach's downtown promenade, next to Congregation Ale House and Harvelle's, in the space that once housed the legendary Blue Café, a new eatery opened last month from the creative minds behind Irish-pub standard Auld Dubliner. But even among the city's flourishing population of trendy gastro havens, the Ordinarie is singular.

So what exactly is an ordinarie? It's basically a legally required tavern, a law put in place some 400 years ago. Every community is required by law to build an ordinarie for the receiving, refreshment and entertainment of travelers and strangers. "That's where the name came from," explains owner Christy Caldwell.

Caldwell defines her new restaurant as "an American tavern," saying the menu "pays respect to American hospitality throughout the years [with] comfort food, regional specialties and tavern food." And to chefs Albert Kim, Chelsea McNeill and Sarah Harrington, that meant creating a contemporary menu flush with distinctively American fare.

For starters, there are Virginia ham and Vermont Cheddar popovers, which come four muffin-shaped disks per order. The sharp cheese and julienne-cut pork make the airy bread dish hearty and substantial enough to be an entrée on its own, rounded out by a scoop of citrusy maple butter on the side.

The New England-style lobster roll features a freshly toasted brioche roll holding massive chunks of lobster, including several pieces of fully intact claw meat, tossed in a light dressing of tarragon, celery and citrus. No mayo here, thank God. On the sides, you have a choice of either French fries, wrapped in a decorative newspaper-print cone, or a simple green salad in a light vinaigrette with red onions and thin slices of beets.

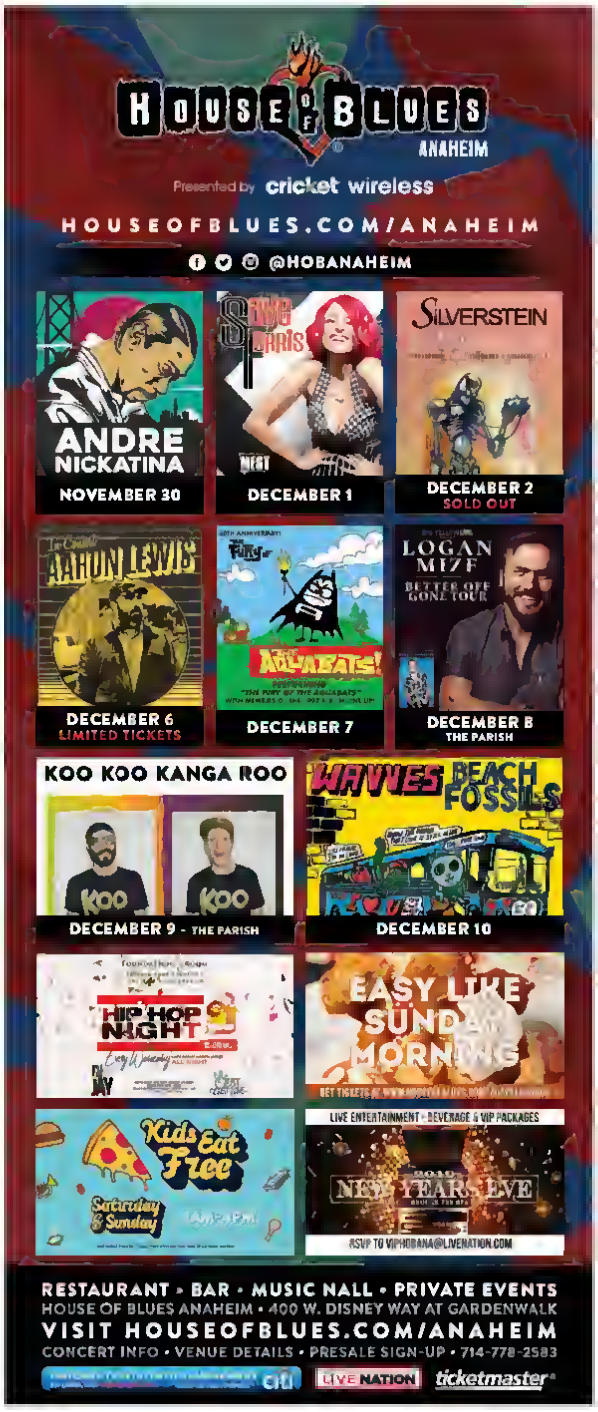
Also offered are such regional, history-soaked culinary contributions as Carolina-style barbecue chicken wings, a Waldorf salad, short-rib beef-dip sandwiches, patty melts and Apple Brown Betties. Though the menu is meat-dominant, there are vegetarian options such as zucchini fritters and a fig-and-apple salad.

Those looking to quench their thirst can delight in the Ordinarie's alcoholic-beverage hook, double the length of the food menu and featuring an extensive selection of cocktails, beer and wine, each section introduced by jaunty illustrations of drunken pilgrims. The skillfully composed list of "Cock-Tails" includes imaginatively named drinks such as the Somewhere In Massachusetts, made of rum, maple, lime, birch beer, mint and maple candy. The Junius Collins mixes vodka, pear-cranberry shrub and pistachio orgeat. If you're feeling brave, order the Goat's Delight, a perilous combination of brandy, cream and absinthe. Patrons can watch their libations being stirred and shaken at the restaurant's sizable bar, constructed of rich, ornately detailed wood and taking up one entire length of the venue.

With partners David Copley and Eric Johnson (both from Auld Dubliner), Caldwell took on an extensive remodel of the vacant-for-years prime spot, ripping out any signs it was once a live-music venue. The result is a retro-modern combination of industrial exposed beams, high-top wooden stools with curvy backs and brown, black and wine-colored cushions, mirrors with placed-just-so age spots, tiny black-and-white checkered tiles, and framed prints of centuries-old oil paintings. Nearly the entire front-facing wall slides open to incorporate an outside patio into the dining area.

If colonial Boston chic is a thing, it's here at the Ordinarie. And be sure to take home the little, red-white-and-blue, star-spangled box of matches that comes with your bill.

THE ORDINARIE
210 The Promenade N., Long Beach, (562) 676-4261, www.theordinarie.com



OC WEEKLY ARCHIVES

#tamaleseason

Where to buy the traditional Christmas treat in Orange County

Thanks to our former Mexican-in-chief, this list goes all the way back to 2011, if not earlier. We just keep adding to it over the years.

EAT THIS NOW

» GUSTAVO ARELLANO AND CYNTHIA REBOLLEDO

EL CHINACO

We need to give a shout-out to our Salvadoran cousins for their soft, pillowy tamales, and fewer places are better to buy them than the legendary El Chinaco. You should always support this Salvi spot above all others, in honor of owner Mirna Barrigaga's stance against anti-Mexican loons the past decade. *560 W 19th St., Costa Mesa, (949) 722-8632, www.elchinaco.com.*

LA POBLANA BAKERY

Of all the mass producers of tamales in Orange County, this is the one that always calls to us, and not just because its strawberry tamales are things of legend. Perhaps it's because La Poblana remains strong in the face of Chapman University gentrification and the continuing frat transformation of Old Towne Orange. It's as fine a tamale factory as any in OC. Don't forget the champurrado. *604 W Chapman Ave., Orange, (714) 771-4465.*

LA VEGANA MEXICANA

On Nov. 3, 2017, La Vegana Mexicana set up shop for the first time at Noche de Altares in Downtown Santa Ana. Though the owners had been crafting and perfecting their tamale recipe for two years prior, last year's Noche de Altares changed everything. They saw there was a major need for plant-based, culturally appropriate Mexican food. When ordering your dozen tamales (the required minimum), be sure to get the savory mushroom-and-guajillo-sauce version and the guava one. *303 W Palm Ave., Orange, www.laveganamexicana.com.*

LAS BRISAS DE APATZINGAN

Here you'll find the best regional style of tamale—the uchepo. Small, super-sweet (but not dessert!) tamales from Michoacán, they are sold year-round but are always a delight to buy during the holidays, especially when you put them in front of non-*michoacana* Mexicans who think they're the most *pirso* people since Chalino Sanchez but don't know shit. *1524 S. Flower St., Santo Ana, (714) 545-5584.*

RUBY'S TAMALES

The stand gets hectic on weekend mornings, when residents are looking to buy a dozen tamales and a hot *cafecito* for the walk home. No matter the day, you'll want to get up early to snag Ruby's signature ranchera tamales wrapped in banana leaves; the masa is moist and spongy and filled with savory pork in a red chile sauce. Another favorite is the guajolota (torta de tamal), which features your choice of tamale inside a bolillo, this Mexico City masterpiece also sells out quickly. *In front of Northgate Market, Fourth and Mortimer streets, Santo Ana.*

SAK DONUT

The legendary Cambodian doughnut spot sells chicken tamales big enough to use as mortar—but delicious enough to eat. *13016 Harbor Blvd., Garden Grove, (714) 539-6995.*

SARINANA'S TAMALE FACTORY

OC's oldest-standing Mexican restaurant (since 1936!) has perfected the art of making tamales rojos. There's a reason why it sells tamales year-round, and it's not because it's the only Spanish word Chicanos know how to say. *2216 W. Fifth St., Santo Ana, (714) 558-8650.*

COURTESY OF MONGREL MEDIA

What You Missed

Some of the most overlooked shows and films of 2018

BY AIMEE MURILLO

If nothing else, 2018 has proven to be excellent in its output of film, television and streaming content, giving us all a little something to talk and feel good about. In fact, maybe there was too much content out there. A few good movies and shows just didn't get the attention, hype or interest they deserved. So to right that wrong, here's a couple of choice titles that should be available to view online through VOD or the viewing platform of your choice.

***Skate Kitchen*.** Jonah Hill has been racking up hype for his nostalgic directorial debut, *Mid90s*, which delves into '90s skateboard culture, but first came Crystal Moselle's *Skate Kitchen* over the summer. In this drama, an introverted teen girl named Camille (Rachelle Vinberg) has a passion for skateboarding, but finds her New Jersey suburb too dull and limiting. She takes a risk in heading to New York to attend an open session for other girl skaters held by the all-female crew Skate Kitchen. The tribe exposes Camille to not only new experiences, but also complications as she becomes closer to the ex-boyfriend of one of her newfound friends. Moselle perfectly captures the lightness and freedom of skating, while focusing on the bonds of these young women trying to find their place in a male-dominated sport. *(Streaming on Amazon Prime, iTunes, Google Play, VUDU and YouTube.)*

***The Assassination of Gianni Versace*.** Ryan Murphy's latest iteration of *American Crime Story* didn't hold up in ratings as well as previous seasons did, but this season reignited the mystery of Andrew Cunanan, a young gay man who killed other gay men throughout the country in the mid-'90s, including superstar fashion designer Gianni Versace. While the murder of his most famous victim hooks you within the first episode, the show jumps around the timeline of Cunanan's murder spree and, in the process, explores the various layers of homophobia that affected gay men of every class and background. Played with sinister panache by *Glee* actor Darren Criss, Cunanan's sociopathic desire for attention and acclaim is scrutinized. *(Streaming on FX NOW, Amazon Prime, Hulu and iTunes.)*

***Mandy*.** Panos Cosmatos' second feature film is perhaps the most bizarre of the year. Nicolas Cage stars as a man intent on revenge from a sadistic thrill-kill cult after they viciously burn alive his artist girlfriend, Mandy (Andrea Riseborough). The atmosphere and production design really make this a must-watch, inspired by '70s fantasy illustrations, *Dungeons and Dragons*, *Heavy Metal* back issues, and '80s films, every scene in Cosmatos' film is an epic odyssey of lush imagery. Plus, you can watch Cage have one of his legendary cinematic freakouts in his tighty whities. *(Streaming on Amazon Prime, Google Play and Shudder.)*

***Wanda*.** Barbara Loden's one and only directorial effort, *Wanda* was remastered by Janus Films, then rereleased this summer, but it unfortunately went way under the radar in markets outside of New York and Los Angeles. To be fair, it's not hard to see why: The film was neglected upon its release in 1970, and its art-house grandeur and Loden's '70s indie cred don't necessarily read as mainstream these days, either. If you're a fan of John Cassavetes' work and enjoy his cinéma vérité gaze on dysfunctional, adrift characters, *Wanda* (written and directed by, as well as starring Loden) features its tragic working-class heroine falling in with questionable men after she deserts her husband and children. Now regarded as a feminist masterpiece, it's a look at Loden's uncompromising vision and her transition into becoming an auteur. It's a great thought-provoking film, raising the question of what could have been of her career if she had had a chance to make another movie before she passed away in 1980. *(Not available to stream, only for DVD purchase.)*

***Pose*.** Drag and ballroom culture is at its highest rate of visibility ever, but somehow this show looking at the various lives of fictional characters who reigned over the scene in its early, underground beginnings wasn't as widely tended to, although it has been given widespread critical praise. These African-American and Latino gay men delight in the drag world while late-'80s New York City goes through its own economic and social upheavals with the rise of yuppie capitalists and the AIDS crisis. Starring a diverse cast that includes the largest number of transgender actors for a narrative television show, this Ryan Murphy-produced program brings more opulence and drama than one can handle. *(Streaming on FX NOW, YouTube, Amazon Prime, iTunes and Google Play.)*

AMURILLO@OCWEEKLY.COM

Let's Get Crazy!

Rating holiday plays based on their psychotic predilections

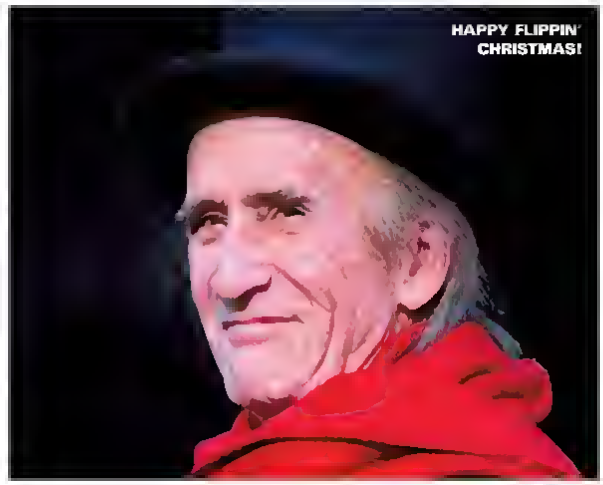
BY JOEL BEERS

Auditory and visual hallucinations, delusions, rapid dissociative speech patterns—all manifestations of psychosis. And while that's nothing to laugh at, isn't it quaint that everyone's favorite red-suited fat fuck, Santa Claus, exhibits all of them?

To wit: Have you ever heard a reindeer talk or seriously contemplate squeezing your morbidly obese ass down a chimney? Do you think anyone would have the power—or even desire it—to determine which kids have been naughty and which have been nice? Not only are those hallucinations and delusions, but the last one is creepy as hell. And while he may not sound like a meth freak reciting the dictionary backward, what the hell is up with the ho, ho, ho-ing?

So, Santa's a psycho. And for the next month, he's everyone's favorite psycho. And that includes at our local stages, most of which, if not summoning his presence by name or shape, will devote considerable energy the rest of the year to holiday-themed plays. And though there are other contenders for the main seat at the holiday table—the Baby Jesus, the Winter Solstice, the metaphor of a shard of light flickering in a sea of darkness—let's get real. They all get second billing to the Patron Saint of Consumerism. Because the Illuminati says so.

So, what better way to rate current and upcoming holiday plays than *OC Weekly*'s soon-to-fade-into-obscurity PSYCHO Scale? Basically, it's a 1-to-100 measure of how wacked-out these plays would seem if you saw them in whatever passes for your version of real life. Note: They're either very mild or way spun.



JIM COX/SCR

A Charlie Brown Christmas. The Chance isn't staging its irreverent romp about Santa's randy reindeers in favor of a more family-themed staging of a familiar story. But since it doesn't feature a Mensa-level Beagle imagining he's the Red Baron, it rates low. **PSYCHO SCORE:** 10. *Chance Theater, 5522 E. La Palma Ave., Anaheim, (888) 455-4212, www.chancetheater.com. Dec. 7-23*

A Christmas Carol. The legendary Hal Landon returns to South Coast Repertory for the 39th year in Jerry Patch's adaptation of Charles Dicken's classic tale, while Long Beach's version is a stripped-down version (an ensemble of eight rather than SCR's 35) returning for its seventh season. And when we're talking hallucinating holiday protagonists, Scrooge has to be near the top of any list. **PSYCHO Score:** 90. *South Coast Repertory, 655 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa, (714) 708-5555, www.scr.org. Through Dec. 24, Long Beach Playhouse, 5021 E. Anaheim St., Long Beach, (562) 494-1014, www.lbplayhouse.org. Dec. 8-23*

A Very Merry Unscripted Christmas. Returning for its third year, this show is created anew every night. Using audience suggestions, the cast improvises a full-length play in the vein of a Hallmark Channel holiday special. **PSYCHO SCORE:** 5. *Modjeska Playhouse, 21084 Bake Pkwy., Ste. 104, Lake Forest, (949) 445-3674, www.mphstage.org. Through Dec. 22*

Blanca Nieves' Christmas. Miguel Cardenas directs this Breath of Fire Latina Theater Ensemble production of Yolanda Mendiveles' play about a recently widowed mother of six facing tough times during the holidays in East Los Angeles, circa 1955. **PSYCHO Score:** 1. *Grand Central Art Center, 125 N. Broadway, Santa Ana, www.breathoffire.org. Dec. 9*

The Holiday Gem. One More Productions wheels out its "fun for the whole family" musical revue, complete with singing, dancing and live musicians. **PSYCHO score:** 3. *Gem Theater, 12852 Main St., Garden Grove, www.onemoreproductions.com. Through Dec. 16*

It's a Wonderful Life. This is STAGEStheatre's constant holiday companion, and if you don't know the classic film this live radio play version is documenting, you need to watch more TV. Next to Scrooge, who is more bonkers than George Bailey? **PSYCHO SCORE:** 99. *STAGEStheatre, 400 E. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, (714) 525-4484, www.stagesoc.org. Through Dec. 22*

Nuncrackers: The Nunsense Christmas Musical. Part of the ridiculously popular *Nunsense* franchise, this one features wise-cracking nuns getting ready to tape a cable-access Christmas show from their basement convent. **PSYCHO Score:** 25, mainly because there's an Ernest Borgnine Theatre in Long Beach?! *Ernest Borgnine Theatre, 855 Elm Ave., Long Beach, (562) 436-3983, www.ernestborgninetheatre.org. Dec. 14-23*

Santa Claus Conquers the Martians. The Maverick's holiday tradition is completely sold out this year. And that in and of itself is just nuts. But combine Santa, Martians and a campy mock-up of a cult classic film, and this show tops the scale. **PSYCHO Score:** 100. *Maverick Theater, 110 E. Walnut Ave., Fullerton, (714) 526-7070, www.mavericktheater.com. Through Dec. 23*

When Christmas Comes to Town. Eight singers display their vocal prowess on a slew of Christmas musical standards. **PSYCHO Score:** 1. *Mysterium Theater, 311 S. Euclid St., La Habra, (562) 697-3311, mysteriumtheater.com. Dec. 13-16*

An A Doll's Only Xmas Pageant. It's last on this list because it deserves to be. Gratuitous nudity, F-bombs, irreverence, blasphemy, music and poetry, Ted Kennedy, mongoose-hating—you name it, and this piece of crap (tries) to deliver. (Full disclosure: Your faithful typist sweeps the theater before the show.) For more info, ask those smoke-people who just slipped into your house through the air conditioning ducts. **PSYCHO Score:** 1,001. *STAGEStheatre, www.stagesoc.org. Dec. 20*

LETTERS@OCWEEKLY.COM

ARTSOVERLOAD

» AIMEE MURILLO

Nov. 30-Dec. 6

ANTHEM: Santa Ana Sites presents two nights of Milka Djordjevich's contradifnooal choreography which seeks to explora physical movemants of labor, joy and the feminina body. Fri.-Sat., 8 p.m. Soul Space Seven, 205 N. Main St., Santa Ana; www.santaanesites.com.

RENEGADE SANTA RUN: Separate 5K, 10K and kids' courses with an opportunity to also compete in costume contests for Best Running Santa, Best Holiday Non-Santa Costume and Best Kids Holiday Costume. Sat., 8 a.m. Registration, $20-$46. Hicks Canyon Elementary School, 3817 Viewpark Ave., Irvine; renegaderaceseries.com.

CANDY CANELAND & CRAFT FAIRE Family-friendly event filled with winter wonderland activities ranging from rides for little ones to a vendor village of seasonal, hand-crafted goods. Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Ehlers Event Center, 8150 Knott Ave., Buena Park, (714) 562-3860; www.buenapark.com.

MAKE IT, TAKE IT—DIY: HOLIDAY DECORATIONS Make two different holiday decorations, either felt pocket ornaments or a rag-tie garland—or both. Sat., 2-4 p.m. $10 for felt pocket ornament; $25 for both projects. Centennial Farm at OC Fair & Event Center, 88 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa; (714) 708-1500; ocfair.com.

WINTER IN THE GROVE: Two city holiday events combined into one, with the annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Winterfest, with such family-friendly activities as a craft area, letter writing to Santa Claus, bonaca houses and 40 tons of snow. Sat., 4-8 p.m. Free admission; unlimited snow rides, $5. Village Green Park, 12732 Main St., Garden Grove; (714) 741-5200; www.ggcity.org.

SANTA PAWS AND PUP PLAY PARK GRAND OPENING: After a ribbon-cutting ceremony, the Paw-sea opens with a pet photo session with Santa Claus, pop-up shops and playtime. Sun., 2-6 p.m. Free. Pasea Hotel & Spa, 21080 Pacific Coast Hwy., Huntington Beach, (855) 636-6371; marriagecollection.com/pasea-hotel/special-events/cool-yule-holidays.

"UPON A PAINTED OCEAN: AN ODE TO THE CALIFORNIA COAST": A collection of paintings made by some of the 20th century's best landscape artists, including Frank Cuprian, Ruth Peabody and William Wendt. Open Tues.-Sat., 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Through March 30, 2019. Free. Irvine Museum, 18881 Von Karman Ave., Ste. 100, Irvine; (949) 476-0254, www.irvinemuseum.org.

LONG BEACH HERITAGE VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS: This "Far and Near" celebration offers tons of magical displays that exhibit holiday traditions from all around the globe. Tues. & Sat., 1-3 p.m. Through Dec. 22. $15-$20. Bamburidge House, 953 Park Circle, Long Beach; (562) 433-7019; lbheritage.org.

COURTESY OF SPIRIT MOTHER

Violin for the Win

Spirit Mother's psych rock is classically unconventional

BY NATE JACKSON

In the pecking order of rock & roll instruments, the supremacy of the guitar's screaming array of crunchy chords, searing solos and widdly-wah wankery is rarely questioned. However, despite many years as an electrifying axeman in previous bands, singer/bassist Armand Lance of Spirit Mother isn't delusional about who the real rock star is in his band. (Hint: It's not the guitarist.)

Sipping IPAs on a cold night at 10 Mile Brewery in Signal Hill, Lance shyly points to the casually cool, classically trained violinist Sarah Jane "SJ" Long while explaining the X factor in their mix of pummeling and atmospheric sound. "I met so many classical musicians who were incredible, but for a lot of them, as soon as improvisation came into play, there was just a complete wall between them and their instruments," Lance says. "That's one of the main differences between a pop musician and a classical musician, and [Sarah] can bridge that gap."

Starting with a handful of jam sessions between Lance and Long more than a year ago, a new project took shape. Spirit Mother's blend of psych rock, punk attitude and out-front violin garnered attention from not only the Long Beach music scene, but also the big wigs at *Thrasher*. The global skateboard magazine recently used several of their songs in its *King of the Road* web series.

Though Lance's prolific songwriting keeps him busy, he reminds himself to give his lyricism and playing style room to breathe and "not get too wordy."

"That's something younger musicians do a lot. They like showing off their chops and writing really complex music that isn't as much for the sake of the song," Long says. It's sage advice, considering her instrument is central to songs such as "Space Cadets" and "Black Sheep" (two of the new songs picked up by *Thrasher*)

Whether playing in staccato or flourishes of bowed sound, Long's parts are the stitching that hold the band's songs together. It's congruent with her life outside of music as an EMT in LA County Specializing in critical care and psychiatrics, her graveyard-shift horror stories run deep, yet music provides a welcome respite from bouts of on-call, late-night chaos. "Practice is a nice getaway from that kind of stuff," Long says. "A lot of the people I deal with and see end up reminding me that shit's pretty good."

Earlier this year, the band—which includes guitarist Sean McCormick and drummer Landon Cisneros—began working with producer Jonny Bell at Jazz Cats Studios in Long Beach to take their skills to the next level. The seasoned artist and Crystal Antlers front man encouraged Spirit Mother to try techniques that brought the vitality of their live show into the studio setting. Offering a wide array of vintage pedals, amps and other gear, the band played around with the sound of Long's acoustic violin to cultivate a dark, looming presence. Her go-to pedals on the effects board Lance built include a loop station and reverb run through a tube amp as if it were a guitar. "The nice thing about it is that there are some rock violinists out there, but not a ton, so … it's easy to stand out," Long says. "With violin, it's easier to find your own sound."

Opting to put off releasing their completed album right away in favor of releasing singles seems to be working out well, as Spirit Mother grow at their own pace. "We're in the process of learning how to do it properly, and we're proud of it, and we don't want to waste it," Lance says.

Lance looks knowingly at Long, who, even in casual conversation, feels the band is on to something. They have a sound worth sharing, but they guard it closely. It's a reminder that a band shouldn't be so loud that its members are unable to listen to their gut.

"We're just trying to be patient and figure out what's best," Long says.

NJACKSON@OCWEEKLY.COM

SPIRIT MOTHER

perform with Bundy, Forest of Tongue and TV Heads at Alex's Bar, 2913 E. Anaheim St., Long Beach, (562) 434-8292, www.alexsbar.com. Thurs., Nov. 29, 8 p.m. $8. 21+

THE COACH HOUSE

www.thecoachhouse.com

TICKETS and DINNER RESERVATIONS: 949-496-8930

11/29 BAND OF FRIENDS (A Celebration of Ruby Gallagher)
11/30 DSB / Ultimate Adams
12/1 WHICH ONE'S PINK?
12/2 DWEEZIL ZAPPA
12/5 SQUIRREL NUT ZIPPERS
12/6 JONNY LANG
12/7 JONNY LANG
12/8 LED ZEPAGAIN
12/9 DAVE ALVIN AND JIMMIE DALE GILMORE
12/14 GARY Ho Ho HOEY
12/15 ROBERT GRAY
12/16 PROJECT PRESLEY (Elvis Presley Tribute)
12/21 BERLIH
12/22 THE EHGLISH BEAT
12/23 An Evening with David Benoit: CHARLIE BRDWN CHRISTMAS
12/27 DDNAVDH FRANKEHREITER
12/28 MARTHA DAVIS AND THE MDTELS
12/29 QUEEH NATIOH
12/31 BEATLES VS STOHES – A Musical Showdown
1/4 PDNCHD SAHCHEZ
1/5 THE CHAIRMAH AHD THE BDARD (Rat Pack Tribute)
1/11 TDMMY EMMAHUEL with JDHN KNDWLES
1/12 DESPERADD
1/15 BUCKCHERRY
1/17 THE MAGPIE SALUTE (Rich Robinson, Marc Ford, Sven Pipien, Eddie Harsch)/ The Stone Foxes
1/18 TOMMY CASTRO
1/19 RDBBY KRIEGER
1/23 ANA POPOVIC / Very Special Guest JDHHHY A.
1/24 MICHAEL NESMITH - And the Hits Just Keep On Comin'
1/25 BIG HEAD TODD & THE MDHSTERS
1/28 JD SDUTHER
1/27 ANNA HALICK
2/1 THE TUBES
2/2 THE DAH RAND
2/7 THE JAMES HUHTER BIX
2/8 JDSHUA RADIH
2/10 THE SMITHEREEHS with Guest Vocalist MARSHALL CRENSHAW

UPCOMING SHOWS

2/14 OTTMAR LIEBERT & LUNA NEGRA
2/15 THE PETTY BREAKERS
2/24 THE FDUR FRESHMEH
3/1 TIHSLEY ELLIS / CDCD MDNTDYA
3/10 THE SPIHNERS
3/15 THE FENIANS
3/21 ULI JDH RDTH : 40th Anniversary Celebration Of Electric Sun And Tokyo Tapes
3/22 SUPER DIAMOND
3/23 THE BLASTERS
3/25 AL STEWART
3/31 MORGAH JAMES: From White to Blue, Two Iconic Albums Celebrated
4/9 BUDDY GUY
4/19 An Evemimo with THE MUSICAL BOX
4/28 KEIKD MATSUI
5/25 DICK DALE
5/30 LITTLE RIVER RAHD
9/20 ASIA ft. John Payne
9/21 HERMAN'S HERMITS

ticketweb 866.468.3399 33157 Camino Capistrano | San Juan Capistrano

Like Us on facebook.com/coachhouseconcerthall | Follow us on Twitter @coach_house

Gunning for the Big Time

Life is good for OC's pop-music heartthrob Gunnar Gehl

BY NATE JACKSON

COURTESY OF GUNNAR GEHL

From the outside, Gunnar Gehl appears to be the archetype of an OC beach boy—the blond hair, tanned good looks and easy-going demeanor all speak to the upbringing of a kid raised on the affluent coast of Newport Beach. However, there's more beneath the surface when it comes to this smooth singer/songwriter. Getting his start playing locally in bands and as a solo artist, Gehl also decided he wanted more out of music, so he toured the country using his music to entertain children in impoverished villages as a board member of a nonprofit organization.

Could this guy get any more perfect?

As his fan base on Instagram surges well above 200,000 followers, we spoke to Gehl about his local roots, diving head-first into philanthropy and his aspirations to become an artist that can bridge contemporary pop with acoustic soul.

OC WEEKLY *How'd you first get into playing music?*

GUNNAR GEHL I picked up a guitar when I was 7 years old and fell in love with it instantly. I did the whole thing where I was in a band my entire childhood, played all around town at a bunch of cool little spots around OC, and then it kinda fell apart a little bit. I didn't wanna stop. I wanted to keep going, so I went to a local studio and started recording on my own. One thing led to another . . . I've met a bunch of great artists so far, including the PrettyMuch band, and they invited me to come on tour with them.

Who were some of your early influences that inspired you to become a singer/songwriter?

John Mayer's been a huge part of my artistry coming up in this industry. The first music video I ever watched was for his song "Bubble Gum Lips," and I fell in love with his tone and how he was at singing and guitar. He was a major influence. But there's also part of me that gets influenced every day by modern music; everything's constantly changing, and there's no single way to do things. I'm always getting influenced by many different things.

Talk about the new single you've recently released, "Ocean Blue."

It's one of the first songs I wrote outside of Newport. I did it up in LA with a producer [Juhan Fefel]. It's about walking past a girl you didn't get to talk to and kind of falling in love with their eyes and wishing you'd said something, that you'd turned around and said something.

A lot of people probably don't know you've spent time volunteering in Africa. How'd that experience come about?

I'm on the board of an organization called WE [formerly known as Free the Children], and we do a trip with 25 families from Orange County to Africa. There's opportunities to help young kids and students in the schools there. There's a video out there of me singing a song to the kids in one of the classrooms we visited. The song is called "Change," and I played it for this village that WE has adopted and really helped. I got them to sing the words to the song with me, and it was a really special moment. This was actually my second trip to Africa, before that, we went to India, and this summer, I'm gonna be taking some of my friends back with me to the same village in Africa.

How'd you get involved in the organization?

I started working with them about four years ago. I'd just recently got asked to join the board last year. I've spoken at their events and performed with the Kenyan boys choir at the Forum for one of my original songs. I wanna help the world, and I have a passion for music, so I'm trying to blend the two and benefit another group of people in the world by writing a song that can unite people. For my career, 10 percent of everything I make is going to this organization.

What was it like being in the village and interacting with the children?

We got to experience the difference between a village that the organization has adopted and one that hasn't ever seen anyone except people inside their village. It was a big moment of realization for me, I encourage everyone to try to do something like this by joining an organization and helping out a poorer country. You can read about it, you can research it, but it doesn't do it justice until you're there. It's a big, heartfelt moment that really put everything into perspective.

How does that kind of experience broaden your perspective as a kid from Orange County and as an artist?

As an OC local, it really makes me think about the little things I hear around town or even out of my own mouth, and going there and seeing that, it makes you double check a bunch of things. As an artist, it's a trip to be on the other side of the world and hear people listening to Shawn Mendes and John Mayer and other artists who I respect a lot. So for me as an artist, I'm not just writing songs for people in my community or even my country. This is hopefully gonna be a global thang, and I need to think about how I can impact people globally with music. It's something that should always be at the top of my list.

What are some of the highlights of connecting with your crowd that you've built on social media?

I've got a good following on Instagram, that's my main platform, and that's all I grew up using. I got a following on that very organically, without even releasing any music, and then we started to branch out with Twitter and YouTube, but Instagram's my main one. It's crazy. It's a lot of people, and it's cool to get the chance to meet a lot of these people in person. It's hard to even face that it's true sometimes. I get surprised every day. I'm just this local kid doing music because he loves it.

What's one of your main goals to accomplish as an artist in 2019?

I want to get a couple of more songs rolling and get an album or EP in the springtime and maybe my own tour after that. Everything did happen so fast for me, and I'm excited to get that chance to show people what I've been doing for the last six to eight months and bring together everyone who supported me from a young age, [to show them] that this is real now. And I want to say thank you. . . . Going around the nation and performing for thousands of people each night is incredible and an amazing experience, but to be able to have a show in my hometown and see people who have been there since the start—that's the best feeling.

NJACKSON@OCWEEKLY.COM

RESPECT FOR THE EARTH® PROJECTS
CULTIVATING A BETTER WAY
Respect for the Earth® Projects celebrate Earth-friendly groups working to empower communities across the country.
EXPLORE. SUPPORT. UNITE.
AT
AMERICANSPIRIT.COM*
NATURAL AMERICAN SPIRIT
SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Smoking Causes Lung Cancer, Heart Disease, Emphysema, And May Complicate Pregnancy
CIGARETTES
*Website restricted to age 21+ smokers.
©2018 SFNTC (4)

concert guide»

ANDRE NICKATINA

COURTESY OF ANDRE NICKATINA

Friday

ANORE NICKATINA. 7 p.m. $25, all ages. House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 W. Disney Way, Ste. 337, Anaheim. (714) 520-2334. www.houseofblues.com/anaheim

DSR 8 p.m. $15, all ages. The Coach House, 33157 Camino Capistrano, San Juan Capistrano, (949) 496-8930. thecoachhouse.com.

FUNKY FRIDAY FORMAL '80S PROM NIGHT 7 p.m. $19.80, all ages. Gardon Amp, 12762 Main St., Garden Grove. (949) 415-8544. gardonamp.com

HOT BUTTERED RUM, GREASY SPOONS: 8 p.m., $12, 21+. The Wayfarer, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa. (949) 764-0039; www.wayfarerom.com.

SHE WANTS REVENGE 9 p.m., $30. 21+. Marty's On Newport, 14401 Newport Ave., Tustin. (714) 544-1995. www.martysonnewport.com.

THE SLOP STOMP 8 p.m. free. 21+. Alex's Bar, 2913 E. Anaheim St., Long Beach. (562) 434-8292. www.alexsbar.com

Saturday

BO NAPOLEAN, JASON J & THEMARCH 8 p.m. free. 21+. The Sidebar Rock N Roll Kitchen, 122 E. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton. (714) 871-7469. www.sidebarfullerton.com

CHICANO SOUL LEGENDS 7:30 p.m., $31-$77. all ages. Honda Center, 2695 E. Katella Ave., Anaheim; www.hondacenter.com

JUSTIN COURTNEY PIERRE 7:30 p.m. $23. all ages. Chem Reaction, 1652 Lincoln Ave., Anaheim, (714) 635-6067. www.allages.com.

MOON HONEY, PURPLE MOUNTAINS MAJESTIES, LANITARIANS 8 p.m. $7. 21+. The Wayfarer, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa. (949) 764-0039; www.wayfarerom.com.

OFFSET, STRIKER, THE ROOSTER 8 p.m. free. 21+. The Karman Bar, 26022 Capo Dr., Ste. C, Laguna Niguel. (949) 582-5909; www.thekarmanbar.com.

SAVE FERRIS 7 p.m. $25. all ages. House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 W. Disney Way, Ste. 337, Anaheim. (714) 778-2583. www.houseofblues.com/anaheim

Sunday

OWEEZIL ZAPPA. 7 p.m., $49.50, all ages. Coach House, 33157 Camino Capistrano, San Juan Capistrano. (949) 496-8930; www.thecoachhouse.com

REO FANG, TELEKINETIC, YETI, ZIG ZAGS 9 p.m., $20. all ages. Marty's On Newport, 14401 Newport Ave., Tustin. (714) 544-1995. www.martysonnewport.com.

SILVERSTEIN, RAWTHORNE HEIGHTS; AS CITIES BURN, CAPSTAN 6 p.m. $23.50. all ages. House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 W. Disney Way, Ste. 337, Anaheim. (714) 778-2583. www.houseofblues.com/anaheim

Monday

BROCKHAMPTON 9 p.m., $40. all ages. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana. (714) 957-0600. www.observatoryoc.com.

COROOVAS 8 p.m. free. 21+. The Wayfarer, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa. (949) 764-0039. www.wayfarerom.com.

KIKI DIAGO; DREAM LOVER, MEMORY GEN 9 p.m., free. 21+. Marty's On Newport, 14401 Newport Ave., Tustin. (714) 544-1995; www.martysonnewport.com.

Tuesday

MOCK ORANGE 7 p.m., $15. all ages. Chem Reaction, 1652 Lincoln Ave., Anaheim. (714) 635-6067. www.allages.com

NOTHING, NOWHERE, WICCA PHASE SPRINGS ETERNAL, SMRTOEATH, ST PANTHER. 7:30 p.m., $18-$22. all ages. The Glass House, 200 W. Second St., Pomona. (909) 865-3902, www.theglasshouse.us

Wednesday

RAMIREZ 9 p.m. $15. all ages. Constellation Room, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana. (714) 957-0600. www.constellationroom.com.

SQUIRREL NUT ZIPPERS: 8 p.m. $29.50. all ages. Coach House, 33157 Camino Capistrano, San Juan Capistrano. (949) 496-8930; www.thecoachhouse.com.

Thursday, Dec. 6

AARON LEWIS 7 p.m. $42-$117. all ages. House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 W. Disney Way, Ste. 337, Anaheim. (714) 778-2583. www.houseofblues.com/anaheim.

JONNY LANG 8 p.m., $78. all ages. Coach House, 33157 Camino Capistrano, San Juan Capistrano, (949) 496-8930; thecoachhouse.com

MADLIB (DJ SET) 9 p.m., $30. 21+. Marty's On Newport, 14401 Newport Ave., Tustin. (714) 544-1995; www.martysonnewport.com.

SAINT JHN 9 p.m. $17-$60. all ages. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana. (714) 957-0600. www.observatoryoc.com

VICTORIA BAILEY & THE JAZZ CATS 8 p.m., $5. 21+. The Wayfarer, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa. (949) 764-0039. www.wayfarerom.com

CALIFORNIA GIRLS
SANTA ANA
NOVEMBER
24
8PM 2AM
Spanks giving
1/2 OFF ENTRY
1 PERSON PER PASS. CANNOT BE COMBINED W/ ANY OTHER OFFER. VALID AT CALIGIRLS SANTA ANA ONLY.
1709 NORTH HARBOR BOULEVARD SANTA ANA, CA 92703
(714) 554-0491 18+ W/ID OPEN DAILY 11AM-2AM

SAHARA
THEATER
Fully Nude
18+
Free Admission*
DAY & NIGHT
*AD NEEDED FOR FREE ENTRY
New
VIP SPECIALS!
Log onto
saharatheater.xxx
for roll call updates & weekly promos
1210 S. State College Blvd, Ste. C., Anaheim, CA 92806
714.772.2242
/SAHARATHEATER
@SAHARA_THEATER
*ONE MINIMUM DRINK PURCHASE REQUIRED

VIAGRA
&
CIALIS!
200 PILLS FOR $99
FREE SHIPPING
100% GUARANTEED.
NO PRESCRIPTION! 24/7
CALL NOW!
1-877-513-6464
HABLAMOS ESPANOL

FREE
ADMISSION
WITH AD
HAPPY
HOUR
MON & THURS OPEN TO CLOSE
TUES, WED & FRIDAY 4PM-8PM
• $3 SHOTS
JACK, JIM, JOSE,
• BOTTLE SERVICE
STARTING AT $75
NOMINATED FOR
Best Strip Joint
BEST OF
OCWEEKLY
ADMISSION FREE
BEFORE 7PM DAILY !
1189 E. ASH AVE. FULLERTON, 92831 • 714-447-0691
CONSTRUCTION FINISHED & STREET IS OPEN
VISA
ATM

TABOO
GENTLEMENS CLUB
Orange County's Finest
FREE
ADMISSION
BRING AD FOR ADMISSION
2017
BEST OF
Readers Poll
NOMINEE
OCWEEKLY
BEST OF
NOMINEE
3025 E La Mesa St. Anaheim, CA | 714.630.5069
TABOOGC.COM | @TABOOGENTSCLUB | 18+ FBLLY BBOE

One Stop Shop for
naughty & nice
XXXmas Gifts
PINK KITTY
YOUR ONE STOP SHOP FOR:
SEXY LINGERIE (S-XXXXL)
ADULT TOYS & NOVELTIES
XXX DVDS
LOTIONS & EDIBLES
BACHELORETTE
PARTY SUPPLIES
20%OFF
ANY PURCHASE OVER $25
*Present this ad for discount Exp 12/8/18
Not valid on sale items, previously purchased items or with any other discount or promotion. Not valid on We-Vibe, Lelo or Womanizer. Only one coupon may be redeemed per person.
17955 SKY PARK CIRCLE, SUITE A, IRVINE | 949-660-4990
STORE HOURS: MON-SAT 11AM-7PM
CALL FOR DIRECTIONS TO STORE!

Shake That Moody

I'm a 30-year-old, Asian American, hetero-flexible cis woman. I'm also newly diagnosed with bipolar II. I'm on medication—the doctor is trying to figure that out—but so far talk therapy for right now, as my first therapist wasn't great and I haven't managed to find a new one. My question for you is regarding the relationship between bipolar and kink. One of the common symptoms of the manic stage of bipolar is "risky sex." I equate risk with "likely to blow up one's personal or professional life" and have always answered "no" to that question when asked by doctors. I've had the occasional hookup, but otherwise, I've consistently had sex in the context of closed, monogamous relationships, i.e., the opposite of risky sex. However, it recently occurred to me that I'm fairly kinky (BDSM, role-play). Nothing I'd consider a variety-level kink, but what do I know? I have out-there fantasies that are variety level, but I've never done them. Am I just bipolar and kinky? Are the two related somehow? Should I be concerned that I'll go into a manic state and start enacting (or trying to enact) some of the variety-level fantasies in my head?

Kinky And Bipolar

P.S. I asked my doctor this via email, but I haven't heard back yet and have no idea how sex-positive he is. So I thought I'd get a second opinion.

PPS. I'm currently manic enough that it's hard for me to edit, so there may be weird/confusing shit in my letter. Sorry for that!

"I'd like to congratulate KAB for seeking help and for the work she's doing to get stable," said Ellen Forney, author of *Rock Steady: Bipolar Advice From My Bipolar Life*, an award-winning self-help guide to maintaining stability and the best-selling graphic memoir *Marbles: Mania, Depression, Michelangelo & Me*. "I'd also like to welcome KAB to BIPOLAR! Toot! Toot! Confetti!"

The specific manic-stage symptom you're concerned about—engaging in super risky sex—is called "hypersexuality," and it's what happens when the extremely-poor-judgment match meets the supercharged-libido gas.

"But it's only 'hypersexuality' when it gets in the way of a reasonably well-functioning life," said Forney. "Picture masturbating all day instead of going to work, or having relationship-wrecking affairs or unprotected sex with strangers."

If your diagnosis is correct and you have bipolar II and not bipolar I, KAB, you may be less susceptible to out-of-control hypersexuality.

"Strictly speaking, a bipolar II diagnosis means she cycles between 'hypomania' (mild mania) and depression," said Forney, "so her highs aren't going to be as acute as they would be for someone diagnosed with bipolar I, where hypersexuality can really get dangerous."

Forney warns that misdiagnoses are not uncommon where bipolar is concerned, so you might want to get your diagnosis confirmed. But your long-standing kinks all by themselves—variety and otherwise—aren't necessarily related to your condition, KAB, and so long as they're safely expressed and explored, you aren't doing anything unreasonably risky or wrong.

"Kinky sex in itself doesn't count as symptom-worthy risky sex—no matter what her doctor emails back," said Forney. "Like for anyone else, there's nothing necessarily wrong with feeling uninhibited enough to pursue variety-level kinks, so long as they're not putting her or anyone else in danger. Ultimately KAB's goal is to be stable enough to trust her judgment. For now she might weigh the risks while she's feeling stable, so she can make some levelheaded decisions about what might or might not be too risky."

Forney also recommends having a discussion with your partners and friends about what your limits are—a discussion you'll want to have when you're not horny or manic or both.

"That way her partners and friends can help her recognize if she's crossing her own lines," said Forney. "And realizing that she's suddenly tempted to cross her own lines could be a signal to her that she's getting hypomanic and needs to take steps to stabilize—steps like getting better sleep, adjusting her meds, and others I explore in *Rock Steady*!"

P.S. If your doctor won't answer your sex questions—or only gives you unhelpful, sex-negative kink-shaming answers—find yourself a new doctor.

PPS. There are letters I have to read three times before I can figure out what the fuck is going on. Your letter was as lucid as it was charming.

PPPS. Therapists across the country are recommending *Rock Steady* to their patients with mood disorders, and Forney won a Media Partner Award from the National Alliance for Mental Illness for her work on *Rock Steady* and *Marbles*. If you haven't already, KAB, please pick up Forney's books. You'll benefit from her insights, her advice, and her coping strategies. And thanks to Forney's art and sense of humor, both books are a delight to read.

I'm 36 and female, and I've been with my current boyfriend for seven years. We were friends for four years before we started dating. He is very slow at making decisions and not a risk taker, and I am somewhat opposite. I think there are times when you have to take a leap of faith, and if it turns out it was a mistake, you learn and grow from it. We lived together on his family's property the first six years after I moved to his hometown. He's waiting in hopes that the property gets handed down to him. I don't live my life in hopes that something will happen; that's out of my control, so I purchased my own home. He moved in. We have not split all costs in half because he said he needs to take care of the other home. It's been six months, and I'm growing impatient for him to commit. We've had several conversations, and I've given him until the end of the year to decide if we should go our separate ways. I said if we am going to be together, we need to be a team and support each other. He was actually taken aback because he thought we were doing fine. One thing he said made me question it all. He said, "I feel that you're supposed to know and have this feeling when you're ready to move forward to be with a person forever." I was so confused by that comment. My friends say it can't only be me who wants this; he has to want it, too. Is it time for me to just move on?

Mulling Over Very Emotional Options Now

Move on, MOVEON, but keep an open mind. Seeing you move on may help your boyfriend realize he *does* want to be with you forever—it'll help him "know"—and if you haven't realized in the interim that you don't want to be with him, you can move back in (and move on) together down the road. But unless inheriting the family property is a sure thing—a sure thing you'll both benefit from in the long run—he needs to pay his fair share. No more freeloading.

Why should I, a feminist, be okay with drag? How is it any different than blackface?

Tough Question

Drag can be sexist, TQ, but it doesn't have to be. And when done right, it isn't. Blackface is always racist. Drag celebrates the craft of hyperfeminine presentation. Drag demonstrates that so much of what we think of as "naturally" feminine is not just a social construct, but quite literally a *construction*. Drag has the power to explode sexism to expose it, by complicating people's preconceptions and misconceptions about what it means to be a woman. Blackface can only reinforce and amplify racism.

In the Lovecast *(savagelovecast.com), studies Stormy Daniels! Contact Dan via mail@savagelove.net, follow him on Twitter @fakedansavage, and visit ITMFA.org.*

SavageLove

» DAN SAVAGE

COURTESY OF ROVE

TOKE OF THE WEEK

» JEFFERSON VANBILLIARD

Rove Featured Farms

The holiday season is finally here! Which means longer lines, shorter days, and a lot of dinners spent listening to your right-wing aunt complain about how millennials are ruining our country.

This year, after setting the table and murdering a goose, take some time to reflect on that innocent little baby in the manger with Rove. Its newest line of ready to use, single origin cartridges will keep you feeling merry long after the eggnog has turned. Packed full of delicious terpenes, these whole-plant, CO2 extracted cannabis cartridges can help to get you through another three minutes of "Little Drummer Boy" or that second helping of fruit cake that's been sitting out for just a bit too long.

Rove introduces a new strain featuring a farm of its choice each week, and we have yet to be disappointed. Whether you've been naughty or nice, you should add Rove to your Christmas list.

LETTERS@OCWEEKLY.COM

Available at People's OC, 2721 S. Grand Ave., Santa Ana, (714) 582-3446, peoplesorangecounty.com

SEE MORE INDUSTRY NEWS AND REVIEWS AT PotPlus.com

21+ OVER
ORANGE COUNTY CANNABIS CLUB
SANTA ANA
Voted Best Patient Appreciation Day, OC Weekly
BRING THIS IN FOR
20% OFF ONE ITEM
3122 S HALLADAY ST, SANTA ANA, CA 92705
oc3dispensory.com 714-754-1348 @oc3.collective

NEED A WEBSITE? WE CAN HELP!

WEBSITE PACKAGE

NEW WEBSITE
$299 PER MONTH*
New Website Design
Content Management Back-End
Monthly Updates
Monthly Maintenance
Listing on potplus.com
Basic SEO Marketing
• Local SEO Optimization
• Organic Optimization
• Email List Building and Management
• List Growth
• Monthly Reports
• Social Media Support

*Pricing restrictions apply. Please contact our representatives for more details

OCWEEKLY Call 714-550-5900 or email ocweekly@ocweekly.com

CHURCH OF NEWPORT MESA

DEALS
DEALS VALID FROM 11/29/18 - 12/6/18 WITH AD FLYER

EDIBLES
CANNA HAHO CRO WATER 2 FOR $15
WEETOS 2 FOR $15
THE HARIT DRINKS 2 FOR $25
CRD PRODUCTS $5 OFF
BUD MAN CHOCOLATE $5 OFF
SUGAR STONED/HIGH CHEW 2 FOR $25
CANAPA CUISINE--BUY 1 GET 1 FREE!!!
DARCHELADA $2 OFF

WAX
HOUSE CRUMPLE 2G FOR $25
LALLIPOP EXTRACTS NUG RUH 2G FOR $60
VADER EXTRACT 2G FOR $50
GOLANI NUG RUH 1G $5 OFF
TRAVELLIHG HIGH RUDDER $5 OFF
THE CLARITY 2 FOR $35
PX EXTRACTS BUY 1 GET 1 FREE!

FLOWER DEALS
$5/G SHAKE & POPCORN
$10/G SHAKE & POPCORN
MID SHELF: 5G FOR $240
DAILY DEALS: 5G FOR $180

FIRST TIME PATIENT
FREE GRAM OH THE SAME SHELF
WITH MINIMUM DONATION OF $40

CARTRIDGES
BRASS KNUCKLES 2G FOR $70
HEAVY HITTER 2 FOR $70
DRIPPY CARTS/DANK VAPES 2 FOR $45
UNCHARTED EXOTICS 2 FOR $40
PLAN B 2 FOR $35
PLUG N PLAY $5 OFF
ALL DISPOSABLES EXCLUDES VVS $5 OFF

PRE-ROLLS
2020 FUTURE 2 FOR $45
THE REAL KURUPT MOONROCK 2 FOR $35
HASH ROLLET 2 FOR $15
WHITE RECLUSE 2 FOR $35
WCC JOINT 2 FOR $25
DANK ROLLS 2 FOR $25

WAX BOGO DEALS
HOUSE WAX: 2G FOR $45
$15/G - 10g for $60
$20/G - 10G FOR $115
$30/G - 10G FOR $160

REFERRAL PATIENT
FREE TOP SHELF JOINT & FREE
CANAPA CUISINE COOKIE

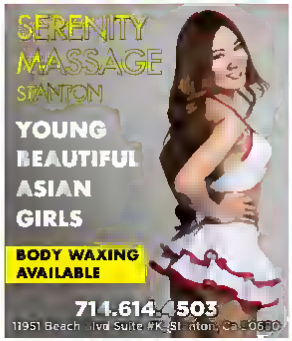
1779 Newport Blvd, Costa Mesa 92627 - Located Behind CoNtev
Business Hours: 9am - 2am (Last Call 1:45am)
949-501-8410

999 Roses
Beautiful Asian Staff
14291 Euclid St.
Unit D 111, Garden Grove
714.554.3936

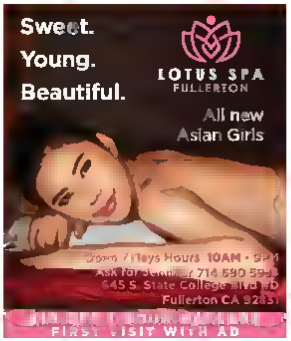
Good 9 Massage Spa in Orange
BEAUTIFUL ASIAN STAFF
$10 OFF
2942 E. Chapman Ave #B Orange, 92869

Sun Massage
BEAUTIFUL & PROFESSIONAL LATINA STAFF
714-605-4010

HEALTH BEAUTY SPA
Full Body Massage
$35/Hour for any service
Open 10am - 8pm | (714) 941-9144
665 N Tustin St unit X Orange Co, 92867


SERENITY MASSAGE
STANTON
YOUNG BEAUTIFUL ASIAN GIRLS
BODY WAXING AVAILABLE
714.614.4503

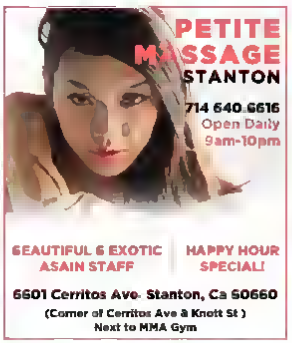
GRAND OPENING
Harmony Massage
ORANGE
30 MIN $35
1 HR $50
SENSUAL RELAXING MASSAGE
657.333.6193
1615 E. Heim Ave Ste 205 Orange, CA 92865


Sweet.
Young.
Beautiful.
LOTUS SPA FULLERTON
All new Asian Girls
FIRST VISIT WITH AD

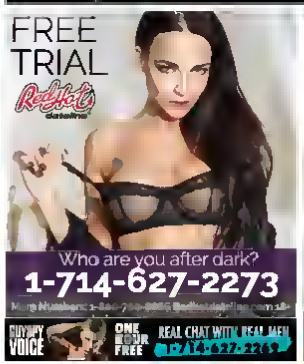
LAVENDER MASSAGE
STANTON
BEAUTIFUL & YOUNG | SEXY & FUN
ASIAN & LATINA GIRLS
$10 OFF 2 GIRL HAPPY HOUR SPECIAL
714-766-9229

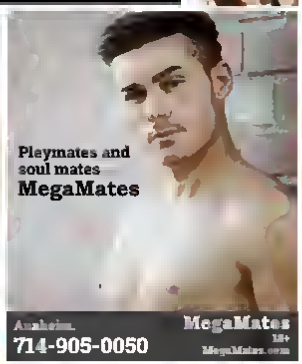
Live links
Real Singles, Real Fun..
30 MINUTES FREE TRIAL
More Numbers:
1-800-926-6000
Livelinks.com 18+
1-714-627-2267

fonochat
The hottest place for latin chat
30 MINUTES FREE TRIAL
714-464-2989


PETITE MASSAGE
STANTON
714 640.6616
Open Daily 9am-10pm
BEAUTIFUL & EXOTIC ASAIN STAFF
HAPPY HOUR SPECIAL!
6601 Cerritos Ave. Stanton, Ca 90660
(Corner of Cerritos Ave & Knott St)
Next to MMA Gym

Happy Massage
SPECIAL FOR 2 GIRLS
FREE Table Shower or $10 OFF
Young & Beautiful Asian & Latina Full body massage, body scrub deep tissue, Thai hot stone.
open late
Private rooms, come try us and you will be back.
714-549-2025 | Open 7 days a week | Accepts VS/MC
2209 S. MAIN ST. SANTA ANA, CA 92707


FREE TRIAL
Red Hot Chatlines
Who are you after dark?
1-714-627-2273
REAL CHAT WITH REAL MEN


Playmates and soul mates
MegaMates
Anaheim.
714-905-0050
MegaMates

NIRVANA Massage
Special!
$30 ½ Hr
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE
ATTRACTIVE GORGEOUS & YOUNG
562-296-8984 | Private & Lux Rooms
4296 Katella Ave. Los Alamitos CA 90720

www.beebeespamassage.com
GRAND OPENING!!
(714) 464-2998
Bee Bee SPA
CALL FOR APPOINTMENT
FULL BODY MASSAGE
FACIAL & BODY WAXING
20% OFF!
OPEN 7 DAYS
10AM - 10PM
FREE VICHY SHOWER!
5919 Cerritos Ave. Cypress, CA 90630

CONDITIONS: All advertisements are published upon the representation by the advertiser and/or agency that the agency and advertiser are authorized to publish the entire contents and subject matter thereof, that the contents are not unlawful, and do not infringe on the rights of any person or entity and that the agency and advertiser have obtained all necessary permission and releases. Upon the *OC Weekly*'s request, the agent or advertiser will produce all necessary permission and releases. In consideration of the publication of advertisements, the advertiser and agency will indemnify and save the *OC Weekly* harmless from and against any loss or expenses arising out of publication of such advertisements. The publisher reserves the right to revise, reject or omit without notice any advertisement at any time. The *OC Weekly* accepts no liability for it's failure, for any cause, to insert an advertisement. Publication and placement of advertisements are not guaranteed. Liability for any error appearing in an advertisement is limited to the cost of the space actually occupied. No allowance, however, will be granted for an error that does not materially affect the value of an advertisement. To qualify for an adjustment, any error must be reported within 15 days of publication date. Credit for errors is limited to first insertion. Drawings, artwork and articles for reproduction are accepted only at the advertiser's risk and should be clearly marked to facilitate their return. The *OC Weekly* reserves the right to revise its advertising rates at any time. Announcements of an increase shall be made four weeks in advance to contract advertisers. No verbal agreement affecting the rates and/or the terms of the rate card shall be recognized.

EMPLOYMENT

HEALTH SCIENCES ASSOCIATE CLINICAL PROFESSOR, CARDIOTHORACIC RADIOLOGY sought by University of California, Irvine in Orange, CA. Perform diagnostic imaging and procedures. Read cardiovascular and thoracic x-ray, cardiothoracic CT and MRI and whole body vascular CTA and MRA. Send resume to: Veronica Valle, 101 The City Dr S., Douglas Hospital, Room 0112, Rt. 148, Orange, CA 92868

Robert Chang Accountancy Corporation seeks **Staff Accountant**. BA in Acct/Bus Admin or related field req'd. 24 mths. in pub acctng. Asst. Snr. Acct. prfrm bdgt projections, sales forecasting, prep. fin. plans. Work Site: Anaheim, CA. Mail resumes to 8661 Katella Ave., Anaheim, CA 92804

General Manager Jod location Irvine, CA. Send resume w/this ad to Code 180799-OM, Tornoka Ban Hilltop Technology Laboratory Inc., 51 Parker, Irvine, CA 92618

Sr Graphic Designer Req'd: Master's in Graphic Design, Art, or related. Mail Resume: Where 2 Get It, Inc., 222 S Harbor Blvd, Ste. 600, Anaheim, CA 92805

Market Research Analyst: Bachelor's Degree in Economics or related req. F/T. Resume to Jake Sejin Oh, Needcare, Inc., 5681 Beach Blvd., Ste 100, Buena Park, CA 90621

Cost Analyst. Prepare cost estimate. Analyze ways to reduce cost. Bachelor's in Business or Business Administration. CV to HR, Pac-Dent Inc., 670 Endeavor Circle, Brea, CA 92821

Senior Systems Engineer: OBDII sought by Karma Automotive in Irvine, CA. Master's plus 2 yr exp. in related field. Send resume to: Jennifer Jeffries, Director, HR, 9950 Jeronimo Road, Irvine, CA 92618 or email careers@karma-automotive.com

Interested candidates send resume to: Google LLC, PO Box 26184 San Francisco, CA 94126 Attn: V Murphy. Please reference job # below. **Software Engineer** (Irvine, CA) Design, develop, modify &/or test software needed for various Google projects. #1615 10210 Exp Incl: C++ or Java Unix or Linux, data structures, algorithms, & complexity analysis SQL, HTML, Javascript, XML, or PHP. & sw dev.

Dental Assistant Wanted X-Ray License. Externs Welcome email: frontoffice@gtfamilydentistry.com

Engineering Manager in Orange, CA masters in engineering management or related + 3 mos. exp. in the job or in a project mgr or related occupation. Mail resume to Archico Design Build Inc., 1835 W. Orangewood Ave, Ste. 325, Orange, CA 92868

Database Administrator. Develop & maintain database for online fashion mdse. co. Req. 2 yrs of exp. Mail resume: Ililly Inc, 650 S Grand Ave #107 Santa Ana, CA 92705

Graphic Designer f/t. Design and create minimalist designs and arts by melding sports and design, at least 2 yrs of exp. in Graphic Design, Graphic Art or related field req'd. Job site: 321 W. Katella Ave. #136 Anaheim, CA 92802. Resume to: Minimalist Design Studio, Inc. @ 13217 Jamboree Rd., Ste 268, Tustin, CA 92782

Interested candidates send resume to Google LLC, PO Box 26184 San Francisco, CA 94126 Attn: V Murphy. Please reference job # below. **Software Engineer** (Irvine, CA) Design, develop, modify &/or test software needed for various Google projects #1615 27852 Exp Incl: C++, Java, & Python, distrib storage sys, distrib & parallel processing systems and data analysis mapreduce, API dev or GWT

Computer Programmer. Develop & write prog. for bus. sys., Min. AA in Comp. Sci. or 2 yr exp. req'd. Send resume to Solomon America, Inc., 10540 Talbert Ave., Ste 110, Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Principal Electronics Engineer. Research & develop microwave & RF sys., MS in EE or equiv. & 2 yrs exp. in EE req'd. Send resume to KMW USA, Inc., 1818 E. Orangethorpe Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831

Computer Programmer. Develop & write prog. for bus. sys., Min. AA in Comp. Sci. or 2-yr exp. req'd. Send resume to Solomon America, Inc., 10540 Talbert Ave., Ste 110, Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Administrative Assistant High School Diploma Req., $40 522/yr. F/T. Resume to Seunghyun Nam, Alisha & SH Investment Inc., 6301 Beach Blvd #304, Buena Park, CA 90621

Graphic Designer. Draw graphic designs for company products. Req. Certi in Digital Graphics Production, Digital Media Design, or Graphic Design. Mail resume: Kadesh, Inc., 7341 Lincoln Way, Garden Grove, CA 92841

Market Research Manager. F/T. Research & analyze current market demand & forecast sales trends in video security products. Marketing, Economics or related or 2 yrs of exp. In job offered. Mail resume to: BIG GART CORPORATION, 16682 Millikan Ave., Irvine, CA 92606

Principal Electronics Engineer. Research & develop microwave & RF sys., MS in EE or equiv. & 2 yrs exp. in EE req'd. Send resume to KMW USA, Inc., 1818 E. Orangethorpe Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831

Graphic Designer. Draw graphic designs for company products. Req. Certi in Digital Graphics Production, Digital Media Design, or Graphic Design. Mail resume: Kadesh, Inc., 7341 Lincoln Way, Garden Grove, CA 92841

Interested candidates send resume to: Google LLC, PO Box 26184 San Francisco, CA 94126 Attn: V Murphy. Please reference job # below. **Software Engineer** (Irvine, CA) Design, develop, modify &/or test software needed for various Google projects #1615 35791 Exp Incl: Java, Javascript, Objective-C or Python, ETL Pipelines, API dsgn, data analysis, database sys or SQL, performance optimization algorithms, data structures, machine learning, or distrib sys & object-oriented programming

Sales Engineer: provide technical support to sales team. 40hrs/wk. Send resume to: Neotec USA Inc., Attn: HR, 20280 S. Vermont Ave., Ste 200, Torrance, CA 90502

SAP Systems Manager sought by Karma Automotive in Irvine, CA. Bachelor's plus 5-yr prog. exp. in related field. Send resume to: Jennifer Jeffries, Director, HR, 9950 Jeronimo Road, Irvine, CA 92618 or email careers@karmaautomotive.com

Systems Software Engineer: Research & develop sys. s/w for microwave & RF sys., MS in CS or equiv. & 2 yrs exp. in CS req'd. Send resume to KMW USA, Inc., 1818 E. Orangethorpe Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

FIRST TIME BUYER'S PROGRAMS !!!!
$1000 Down. Many Homes Available! All So-Cal Areas! Will consider Bad Credit. 4% APR. Call or Text Agent: **562-675-4906**

SERVICES

530 MISC. SERVICES

WANTS TO purchase minerals and other oil & gas interests. Send details to P.O. Box 13557, Denver, Co 80201

OCWEEKLY Bulletin

WE BUY SURFBOARDS
ANY SIZE. ANY CONDITION.
CALL MARK 949-232-2603

A HELLUVA HAPPENING

BY LISA BLACK

With a cast of a thousand and as many gathered to watch, the *Shoreline Project* fulfilled its ouch-hyped promise as the centerpiece of Laguna Art Museum's annual Art & Nature Fest. My own preview contrasted quite passionately to the high expectations, predicting "a mythic event," "a glowing antidote to these darkly divided times." And guess what? It wasn't the least disappointing. Well, except that I wish I had signed up to count in Elizabeth Turk's well-prepared and spontaneous art happening.

The steps at the north end of Main Beach was a great spot to take it all in—the black-clad participants and their prized parasols; the two drones filming it all above our heads, the beach and over the sea; the ever-growing crowd in the glow of the setting sun. A huge circle formed for the Assembly's choreographed piece that kicked it off—the image of all the dancers striking an archer's pose sticks in my head. The powerful drumming mixed with the sounds of the ocean and energized everyone to light up their X-rayed-medusa umbrellas. The community volunteers came together in the dusk like dancing jellyfish in a luminescent share. Treat yourself to the two-and-a-half minute video at www.shoreline-project.com.

Here's to Turk and her collaborators for dreaming up such a spectacle—and reminding us all to go toward the light while, just maybe, keeping our expectations a little in check.

LBLACK@OCWEEKLY.COM

LAGUNA ART MUSEUM

BOTTOM PHOTOS BY LISA BLACK

THE CANNABIS COMPLIANCE FIRM

BEST OF READERS' CHOICE WINNER OCWEEKLY 2016

OCWEEKLY BEST OF READERS' CHOICE WINNER 2017

VOTED BEST CANNABIS LAWYER

2 Years in a Row!

Christopher M. Glew

Chris Glew is one of the first litigators in Orange County to focus on Cannabis cases. Awarded Best Cannabis Attorney by OC Weekly, Glew is an author and speaker on all Cannabis related matters. He has appeared on CNN, NBC, ABC, Fox and has co-hosted a radio and internet broadcast on Cannabis. He's also a featured writer for many national and local media outlets on regulatory issues for Cannabis.

Glew has assisted numerous clients in Cannabis licensing all over the State of California. Acting as Special Counsel for the Southern Cannabis Association, he's also co-founder of the California Cannabis Bar Association.

CCF CANNABIS COMPLIANCE FIRM

dispensaries.com WeCann

1851 East 4th Street Suite 840 Santa Ana, CA | 866.648.0004 | CannabisComplianceFirm.com

PURCHASE LEGAL CANNABIS

MUST BE 21 YEARS OF AGE TO PURCHASE RECREATIONAL (NON-MEDICINAL) CANNABIS

SCSA

SOUTH COAST SAFE ACCESS

LICENSED & LEGAL

LARGE SELECTION
CBD PRODUCTS

SENIOR/DISABILITY
10% OFF

VETERANS
25% OFF

STUDENTS
10% OFF

RETIRED LAW ENFORCEMENT
20% OFF

WEBSITE
SOUTHCOASTSAFEACCESS.COM

CALL
949.474.7272

STORE HOURS
MON-SAT 8AM-10PM
SUN 10AM-8PM

FIND US
1900 E WARNER AVE,
SANTA ANA, CA, 92705

2017 BEST OF Readers' Poll NOMINEE OC WEEKLY

RECREATIONAL (NON-MEDICINAL) CANNABIS SALES ARE SCHEDULED TO BE PERMITTED BY SELECT LICENSED ENTITIES STARTING JANUARY 1, 2018. ADVERTISER IS CURRENTLY A LICENSED MEDICINAL CANNABIS DISPENSARY HAS SUBMITTED THE REQUISITE APPLICATIONS FOR RECREATIONAL SALES AND ANTICIPATES OBTAINING FULL LICENSURE FOR RECREATIONAL SALES STARTING JANUARY 1, 2018. COMMENCEMENT OF RECREATIONAL SALES BY ADVERTISER ON JANUARY 1, 2018 IS CONDITIONED ON OBTAINING FULL LICENSURE OR EXEMPTION THEREFROM.